

# SOAP BY NISSIM EZEKIEL

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# THE TEXT

Some people are not having manners,  
this I am always observing,  
For example other day I find  
I am needing soap  
For ordinary washing myself purposes.  
So I'm going to one small shop  
nearby in my lane and I'm asking  
for well-known brand soap.

## TEXT CONTD...

That shopman he's giving me soap  
but I'm finding it defective version.

So I'm saying very politely — —

though in Hindi I'm saying it,

and my Hindi is not so good as my English,

Please to excuse me

but this is defective version of well-known brand soap.

## TEXT CONTD...

That shopman is saying  
and very rudely he is saying it,  
What is wrong with soap?  
Still I am keeping my temper  
and repeating very smilingly  
Please to note this defect in soap,  
and still he is denying the truth.

## **TEXT CONTD...**

**So I'm getting very angry that time  
and with loud voice I am saying**

**YOU ARE BLIND OR WHAT?**

**Now he is shouting**

**YOU ARE CALLING ME BLIND OR WHAT?**

## **TEXT CONTD...**

**Come outside and I will show you**

**Then I am shouting**

**What you will show me**

**Which I haven't got already?**

**It is vulgar thing to say**

**but I am saying it.**

## TEXT CONTD...

Now small crowd is collecting  
and shopman is much bigger than me,  
and I am not caring so much  
for small defect in well-known brand soap.

So I'm saying

Alright OK Alright OK

this time I will take

but not next time.

# INTRODUCTION

**'Soap' is the important poem of Nissim Ezekiel, himself a very important figure of Indian literature in English.**

**He formulated basic principles of life through this poem.**

**Marriage, love, breakup, sex, etc are the themes of his poems.**



# ANALYSIS

'Soap', is a simple poem to understand. It's external meaning of poem, but when we go through details of it, then we identify it is not a poem which has written on trivial or ordinary topic. It formulates principles of life. Adaptability with the time and adjustment with the situation is the central theme of the poem. Survival of the fittest is the basic feature for animated things. 'Soap', is closely explains all these principles clearly. The poem opens with ordinary conversation between shopkeeper and poet. Poet wants to purchase of Branded soap, Shopkeeper gives ordinary soap saying it is branded one.

## ANALYSIS CONTINUED

When poet asks about, differences between ordinary soap and branded soap. Shopkeeper started to argue with poet by saying that you must purchase whatever I have given. Poet is intellectual figure tries to plead argument intelligently but in vain, shopkeeper is not ready to accept poet's argument. Meantime shopkeeper uses slang, language, which is many aesthetic part of poem. Poe was intended to reply shopkeeper in tit for tat form but shopkeeper is very rude in his behavior. During the argument public gathered over and started to take enjoy over the controversy. The personality of shopkeeper was very strong contrary poet's personality was thin. It was contrast couple in reference to power.

By taking this principle, shopkeeper starts to impose the decision on poet and forcefully compelled to persuade to take ordinary type of soap. In the eventually poet accepts the decision unwillingly. Might is right applies here poet withdraws has plead very consciously and agrees to accept that soap.

**Man differs from other animals because; he could easily adapt the situation. In real life person should adapt the situation. In real life person should adopt things as per demand of time then human being could survive. Shopkeeper was powerful personality and poet was trivial personality. Poet unable to stand before the shopkeeper, this thing he understood cleverly and withdrawal his plead against shopkeeper.**