

4. Now read the following poem and answer the questions that follow:

DO NOT JUMP MY BODY

Do not jump my body,
Before I am cold and stiff
Looking for my bank book.
I toiled to death,
But you invested in indolence!

Do not ransack my pockets,
For the key to my bedroom
My wife is alert and alive,
And my children are wake and sane!

Do not tickle my cold armpits,
To induce a cold smile
From my caked lips.
It is too late!

Do not weep for me!
When my limbs are cold and stiff
When my heart is hard and silent
When my face is pale and wrinkled
And my eyes are dark and lifeless!

You may turn my body
More than once,
When I am dead than when I lived;
This union is strange and suspect
And your concern belated!
You may conceal your insatiable greed
But your moves I keenly watch
As you scramble for my death certificate
And the titles of what I own.
Shame upon you!

J. Turyatamba

(From Ballads of Victors and Victims by James Turyatamba)

Questions:

- a) What is the poem about?
- b) Comment on the speaker's tone and attitude.