



12

## REGAINING OLD PRIDE

*Neha Meshram*

*Assistant Professor, B. M. S. College for Women, Bangalore, Karnataka, India*

I've cut 'em short  
'Cause someone asked me to.

I've cut 'em  
'Cause I wanted attention — little, perhaps.  
I've cut them  
When I loathed myself.  
I've cut them  
When I felt broken... lost, perhaps.  
I've cut them  
For a change.  
And —  
Sometimes, for no reason at all.

**This time,**  
But this time it's different.  
I've cut them —  
Not *them* but something else.

I've cut my ends —  
To certain expectations,  
To people,  
To doubts,  
To those pairs of eyes  
That never stopped following.

...And what if — *what if* — I let it grow?

A little stronger,  
More determined.  
A little sharp around the edges,  
More secure.  
A little courageous,  
More kind.



A little pleasing,  
And more self-reliant.

This was never written about hair.



This is an Open Access e-Journal Published Under A Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License

**Composition Received:** 13/06/2025

**Accepted:** 22/06/2025

**Published Online:** 27/06/2025

**To Cite the Poem:** Meshram, Neha. "Regaining Old Pride." *Literary Cognizance: An International Refereed/Peer Reviewed e-Journal of English Language, Literature and Criticism*, Vol.-VI, Issue-1, June, 2025, 21-22. [www.literarycognizance.com](http://www.literarycognizance.com)

