

Noe Itô

(Excerpts from her time as a young journalist for the progressive women's magazine Seitô, around 1916, six years before her being murdered in police custody) :

The New Woman does not follow in the footsteps of previous women

She even ignores these steps

She takes the path of a New Woman

She goes further

Continues in a direction where most have come to a halt

She's a pathfinder

Stung by poisonous insects

She sheds bitter tears

Those who only know the old path

Those who got stuck there

They don't even recognise her new ways

Even with her as a guide, this path is new

No one knows where it'll lead

Those who dare to go are accompanied by ignorance, by fear and danger

Strength arises in the New Woman

Courage grows on that new path

Down with the traditions!

Down with the habits!

Down with the customs!