

# WRITING THE LIMITS, THE LIMITS OF WRITING

a talk by mauritian writer ananda devi  
on the writer's responsibility and role in the world

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"When an author decides to write about violence, there is always the danger that the author herself or the reader or both fall under the seduction of violence, and that, instead of condemning it, they either glorify it or trivialise it. Yet, a writer cannot turn away from the reality of violence - especially in a increasingly tumultuous world. Are there limits to what can be written about? Should writers question their own motivations when addressing such issues? And do they come out of it unscathed?"

Ananda Devi is a novelist and scholar born in Trois-Boutiques, Mauritius in 1957. She has lived in Ferney-Voltaire, France since 1989, after having spent some years in Congo-Brazzaville. As an ethnologist and a translator, Devi is sensitive to the interconnection between identities and languages. Her incisive, lyrical and shrewd style offers the French language new cultural and linguistic scope linked to her native island.

Ananda Devi has published eleven novels as well as short stories and poetry. The winner of multiple literary awards, she was made a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Government in 2010.

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