

MY MOTHER

AT

SIXTY SIX

□ KAMALA DAS

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# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## MY MOTHER AT SIXTY SIX

- Kamala Das



# About Poet



*Kamala Das (1934-2009) was born in Malabar, Kerala. She is recognised as one of India's foremost poets. Her works are known for their originality, versatility and the indigenous flavour of the soil. She has published many novels and short stories. She wrote under the pen name "Madhavi Kutty"*



# Introduction

**My mother at sixty six is written by Kamala Das who is famous for capturing complexities of human relationships. The poem my mother at sixty six is one of the finest examples of the human bonding, especially that of a mother and daughter. It describes the pain and fear of the poet - of losing her mother due to harsh reality of life**

# Poem And Explanation

- ❖ Driving from my parent' s home  
To Cochin last Friday morning  
I saw my mother beside me.



The poetess explains that once when she visited her parent's house in Cochin. It was a Friday when she was driving back to the airport, her mother was sitting beside her at the back of the car. The poet looked at her mother.

- ❖ Doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that  
of a corpse and realised with pain.

She saw that her mother was sleeping and her mouth was open. She further explains that the colour of her mother's face was like that of ash. (This means that there was some smoky appearance on her face). She looked like a dead body.

# Figure of Speech Used

**Assonance:** Here we see the use of vowel sound that is 'o'. (To Cochin last Friday morning)

**Assonance:** Use of vowel sound 'o', 'a', 'e' (doze, open mouthed, her face ashen like that of a corpse)

**Simile:** The colour of the mother's face has been compared to that of a corpse - ashen. use of 'like' (her face ashen like that of a corpse)



# Poem And Explanation

- ❖ that she was as old as she looked but soon  
put that thought away, and looked out at Young  
Trees sprinting, the merry children spilling out of their homes,

The poetess realized that her mother had grown old. She felt pain for her. But soon she tried to get rid of this sad thought by diverting her thoughts towards the trees outside. The young trees although stationary seemed to be running very fast as though they were sprinting. She also saw children running out of their houses, into the playground. All these things were full of life and energy, contrary to her mother who sat next to her.

- ❖ but after the airport's  
security check, standing a few yards  
away, I looked again at her, wan, pale

The poet continues that when she reached the airport, she finished with the security check and stood a few yards away from her mother. She noticed her mother's ageing face which looked so dull, weak and pale.

# Figure of Speech Used

Consonance: use of the sound 's' and 't'

Imagery: when the poet say trees sprinting, merry children spilling

Repetition: Repeated use of 'looked'





# Poem And Explanation

- ❖ As a late winter's moon and felt that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear, but all I said was, see you soon, Amma, all I did was smile and smile and smile.....



poet compares her mother to a late winter's moon as the moon in winters is not shiny and even her mother's face had also lost her youth and shine. As her mother was getting older and weak. The poet feels the fear of separation just as she used to feel during her childhood. As a child, she could not bear the pain of separating from her mother. But now as her mother has grown old and is about to die, the poet feels that may be this is the last time that she is seeing her mother. She tries to hide her fear. She then says that she would soon see her mother again. She says so because she doesn't want to lose her mother.

# Figure of Speech Used

**Repetition:** use of 'smile

**Rhyme scheme:** The poem does not follow any rhyme or rhythm. It has been written in free verse.

**Simile:** Mother's face is compared to the late winter's moon - both are dull and lifeless. Use of 'as' (as a late winter's moon).



**Complete All**

**NCERT Questions,**

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