

My Mother at Sixty Six—Kamala Das

Deeply influenced by the writings of uncle Narayan Menon and mother Nalapat Balamani Amma, Kamala Das took writing at an early age. However, after her marriage, it was not very easy for her to write due to household responsibility. Kamala Das' writing is characterised by the rebellion against taboos that society imposes on women. Also she explores the gamut of human relationship from the perspective of a woman—a daughter, a wife, mother and a non-conformist feminist. Kamala Das' works are known for their originality, versatility and the indigenous flavour of the soil.

Points to Remember

- On her way back to Cochin, the poet looks at her mother.
- Finds her weak lacking in energy and life.
- Her mother's ageing, decaying health and fear of losing her, cause the poet much pain.
- In order to divert her mind from such negative thoughts, she starts looking outside.
- Finds the trees running, the young children spilling/rushing out of homes.
- The face of poet's mother symbolises frailty, dullness, and inactivity whereas, merry children and young trees symbolise vigour, energy, zeal, and joy.
- As the late winter's moon loses its magnificence and beauty when it gets covered with fog, similarly poet's mother has lost her youthful look, vitality and charm.
- At the airport while parting from her mother the poet smiles and reassures her mother that all is well also she tries to hide her fear of losing/reparation from her mother.

POETIC DEVICES :-

Personification-'trees sprinting

Imagery-children spilling

similar her face ashen like that of a corpse' wan pale as a late winter's Moon.

Irony : see you soon Amma and her prolonged smile her ironical as they are a sharp contrast to the fear and agony which the poetess experiences.

Symbols : tree sprinting and merry children stand you for youth, vigour vitality, life and growth. Winter's moon symbolics frail health, decay and death.
