



POETRY

CHAP. - 01

MY MOTHER AT SIXTY SIX

ABOUT THE POET :- Kamala Das 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 is a sensitive writer who captures the complex subtleties of human relationship in lyrical idiom.

SUMMARY :- The poet in this poem describes her mother. She says that she is 66 years old and looks very weak and old. When the poet was returning from her parent's home and was on the way to the airport, her mother was accompanying her. She noticed her mother who was sitting with her at the back seat of the car. When she reached the airport, she again looked at her ailing mother who looked old and dull like the weak moon in the winter season. The poet was surrounded by the same fear that she had during her childhood - the fear of losing her mother. She thought that maybe this was the last time that she saw her mother alive. Her mother was about to die. But then she tried to come out of the sadness and smiled at her mother. She said that soon she would see her again. The poet wanted to be with her mother again and did not want to lose her.

SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTION :-

Q17) What were the fears of the poet as she looked at her mother?

Ans The sight of her mother's corpse like face makes the poet sad. Her childhood fear returns. The fear is that with ageing comes decay and death. Ageing and decay are inevitable. No one can avoid them. Perhaps she herself may have to face all these things. This idea is quite painful and fearful for her.

Q27) Why is the poet's mother compared to the late winter's moon in the poem "my mother at 66"?

Ans The mother has been compared to the late winter's moon because the face of the mother has lost its glow it seems to be an ash and looks pale as the moon loses its glow in late winter.

Q37) What is the kind of pain and ache that the poet feels?

Ans The poet sees her mother beside her dozing. She has grown old and weak. Her mouth is open. Her face is pale like that of a dead body. It appears that she will not live long. The poet feels the pain of losing her soon.

Q47 What do the parting words of the poet and her smile signify?

Ans The parting words of the poet and her smile signify some nostalgic feelings in her. The poet feels sad to think that her mother might leave forever. Now she realises her duty towards her mother. She does not want that her mother spent her time lonely and unwanted.

Q57 Why has the poet brought in the image of the merry children 'spilling out of their homes'?

Ans The poet has brought in the image of the merry children spilling out of their homes because she did not want to think of her sickly mother. She wants to highlight the fact that they are lively and energetic. They are free from all tensions and worries. The carefree happy children present a contrast. It is a good diversion.

IMPORTANT STANZAS

STANZA - 01

1) I looked again at her, wan, pale
as a late winter's moon and felt that old
familiar ache, my childhood's fear ---

a) Name the poem and the poet.

Ans Poem "My mother at 66"

Poet - Kamla Das

b) What did the mother look like?

Ans Mother looked like late winter's moon.

c) What is the poet's childhood fear?

Ans The fear of old age, decay and ultimate death is the poet's childhood fear.

STANZA - 02

Driving from my parent's home to Cochin last Friday morning, I saw my mother, beside me, doze, open mouthed, the face ashen like that of a corpse and realised with pain.

a) What did she notice while her mother sat beside her?

Ans She noticed that her mother was dozing with her mouth open.

b) What had she noticed while her mother sat beside her?

Ans Her mother's face looked pale, faded and lifeless like dead body.

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