



## FEMININE SENSIBILITY IN THE POEM "MY GRANDMOTHER'S HOUSE" BY KAMALA DAS

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### ABSTRACT

filled in this poem.

Kamala Das is a Subjective poet. "My Grandmother's House" is an autobiographical poem. The poem tries to reflect her own state of expecting love which she lost. This article tries to bring out the feminine sensibility that the poet has

**KEYWORDS :** Feminine sensitivity, selfless love, Childhood memory lane.

The Indian English poetry is not isolated from the global trends very much corroborated by the fact that it has incorporated in itself the manifestation of the feminist movements that swept through Europe, America, Canada and Australia since 1960s. For the first time in the Indian English poetry, the women poets of post-independence and post-modern period in a subversive idiom and their desires, lust, sexuality and gestational experiences. They enriched Indian English poetry with a worth of new themes and experiences.

The poem "My Grandmother's House" first appeared in Kamala Das' first anthology of verse titled Summer Time in Calcutta (1905). It is also an autobiographical poem which the poet's longing for her parental house in Malabar is movingly described. She is reminded of the ancestral house where she had received immense love and affection from her grandmother.

Kamala Das is a confessional poet who wrote her own feelings. Kamala das an Indian origin lady, very sensitive by her nature, it is a common human nature among women. As a writer she has gone forward to let her own feelings get exposed through her writings. In all her poems the one important thing is reflected, her thirst for love. Love is a beautiful feeling; this alone has no such limits in the world. But somewhere in the corner of the small world everyone is expecting some pure form of love from the people. But in the case of kamala das it is quite different. She was given so much love before she got married to a stranger (husband). When she was with her own family she got so much affection that she is missing after her marriage. This is the feeling portrayed in the poem "My Grandmother's House".

Though love is a common feeling in the world, women are more expressive than men. This is to be dealt with the sensitiveness of any women. In the poem "My Grandmother's House" as a subjective poem Kamala Das' sensibility is reflected. The stereotype of the society decides that women should be a part of two families. But the affection that she is receiving from the second family is a questionable one. The love and affection that she receives from her second family is the unexpected one. Because the love she receives from her second family is less than the love she had in her own family.

"There is a house now far away where once I received love--"

The poem has the essence of nostalgia. The poet is comparing her current life with the past one. The past memories are the colourful events of her life. Her childhood memories are the dominating one. Those days filled with love and people, now has the empty space. She is denoting I was receiving love once, which is now missing. Any women have the kind of feeling. The sensitiveness of the women are always expressing love or expecting love from people. Whereas in the case of men, they never got a chance to feel this or they don't express much.

"How often I think of going There, to peer through blind eyes of windows"

Once she was among with her grandmother, books, windows etc, but now only the frozen air. We have men who write poetry, but they don't express much or be subjective all the time. Kamala Das use to think about her people who were in life a long ago. She is left alone in her in-law's home, so she thinks of her past memories all the time. The poet may receive 'Just the frozen air' alone but it definitely holds the love of her grandmother in her perspective. It is the feminine quality that she starves for the love which is lost now.

"Or wild in despair, pick an armful of Darkness to bring it here to lie Behind my bedroom"

Feminine maturity is accepting the reality and goes with it. Her inner consciousness believes that her childhood was awesome and now she is living with strangers. The childhood is a unforgettable memory lane of her life. She has lost her way in search of genuine and selfless love. 'Bring the darkness and hold it behind my bedroom'. Whenever she denotes her second family, she did not forget to use 'stranger'.

Her expectation is all about the pure love which is magical surprise for her. The form of selfless love she received, only from her childhood days. Even the windows, doors, light, and "Darkness" poured love upon her. But not even the dog is showing love to her now in the stranger's family. Darkness represents the dark side of life which has no happiness and enjoyments. That kind of darkness is shown her love in her grandma's house but not the colourful light in the stranger's family.

The poet is in a mood of reminiscence and recreates the plight of the grandmother's house after her departure from the scene of life. She gives us the very feel of the house in its state of neglect and desertion. The poet has used the smile of brooding dog to show her inability to pay a visit to her grandmother's house. She has employed suggestive visual imagery in most of the scenes of the poem.

The poet informs, her dear husband that he can never believe the intensity of love that she received from her grandmother. He can never realize that she was extremely proud of her grandmother's house where she was deeply loved by her grandmother. It is her separation from her grandmother's house after marriage that she has ruined her life forever. It is loveless and hopeless married life that she has crippled her sense of pride and love which she used to have in her grandmother's house. She has become a beggar or love who knocks helplessly at stranger's doors to receive at least in small measure.

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