

My Mother at Sixty-six

इस अध्याय के सभी महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न – उत्तर सहित। पहले खुद हल करने की कोशिश करो, फिर उत्तर मिलाओ।

अभ्यास प्रश्न-उत्तर (हर टॉपिक से)

» Introduction to Kamala Das and her Poetic Style

प्रश्न 1 (आसान). Where was Kamala Das born?

उत्तर – Kamala Das was born in Malabar, Kerala.

प्रश्न 2 (आसान). Under what pen name did Kamala Das write novels and short stories?

उत्तर – She wrote under the name 'Madhavikutty'.

प्रश्न 3 (मध्यम). What are the three main characteristics that define Kamala Das's poetic style?

उत्तर – Her poetic style is known for its 'originality,' 'versatility,' and the 'indigenous flavour of the soil'.

प्रश्न 4 (कठिन). How does Kamala Das's sensitivity as a writer manifest in her portrayal of human relationships?

उत्तर – As a sensitive writer, Kamala Das captures the 'complex subtleties of human relationships' by portraying the deep, often unspoken emotions and intricate dynamics in a 'lyrical idiom,' making her work profoundly relatable and insightful.

» The Poet's Initial Observation of Her Mother

प्रश्न 5 (आसान). What was the poet's mother doing in the car?

उत्तर – The poet's mother was 'dozing' (sleeping lightly) with her mouth open.

प्रश्न 6 (आसान). Which two words describe her mother's face?

उत्तर – Her mother's face was described as 'ashen' and 'wan'.

प्रश्न 7 (मध्यम). What 'pain' did the poet realise about her mother?

उत्तर – The poet 'realised with pain that she was as old as she looked,' meaning her mother's aged appearance painfully confirmed her true age and frailty.

प्रश्न 8 (कठिन). What is the 'old familiar ache' the poet feels?

उत्तर – The 'old familiar ache' is her 'childhood's fear' - the deep-seated fear of losing her mother and the inevitable reality of her mother's aging and eventual death.

» Simile: Mother's Face 'Ashen like that of a Corpse'

प्रश्न 9 (आसान). Identify the simile in: 'Her smile was as bright as the sun.'

उत्तर – 'as bright as the sun'

प्रश्न 10 (आसान). What two things are compared in 'The clouds were like cotton balls'?

उत्तर – Clouds and cotton balls

प्रश्न 11 (मध्यम). What is the effect of saying 'The baby slept like a log'?

उत्तर – It suggests the baby slept very soundly and deeply, without moving, like a heavy piece of wood.

प्रश्न 12 (कठिन). How does the simile 'My Mother at Sixty-six' - 'her face ashen like that of a corpse' - add to the poem's theme?

उत्तर – This simile deeply conveys the poet's fear of her mother's aging and impending death. It emphasizes the mother's lifeless, pale appearance, making the poet's 'old familiar ache' more palpable and highlighting the transient nature of life.

» Distraction through Contrasting Imagery: Young Trees and Merry Children

प्रश्न 13 (आसान). What does 'sprinting' mean in 'Young Trees sprinting'?

उत्तर – It means running very fast, like athletes.

प्रश्न 14 (आसान). Why did the poet look out of the car?

उत्तर – She looked out to distract herself from her painful thoughts and anxiety about her mother's aging.

प्रश्न 15 (मध्यम). How do 'merry children' contrast with the poet's mother?

उत्तर – 'Merry children' represent youth, joy, and vitality, which strongly contrasts with the mother's old age, paleness, and fading life.

प्रश्न 16 (कठिन). Explain how the poet uses 'contrasting imagery' as a coping mechanism.

उत्तर – The poet uses the vibrant images of 'Young Trees sprinting' and 'merry children spilling out' to contrast with her mother's 'wan, pale' appearance. This contrast acts as a psychological coping mechanism, temporarily shifting her focus from the painful reality of her mother's aging and impending loss to the vitality and continuity of life outside.

» Second Observation and Recurring Fear

प्रश्न 17 (आसान). What two adjectives does the poet use to describe her mother's face when she looks at her again?

उत्तर – The poet uses 'wan' and 'pale' to describe her mother's face.

प्रश्न 18 (आसान). What 'old familiar' feeling does the poet experience again?

उत्तर – The poet experiences 'that old familiar ache, my childhood's fear'.

प्रश्न 19 (मध्यम). Why does the poet compare her mother to a 'late winter's moon'?

उत्तर – The poet compares her mother to a 'late winter's moon' because it is dim, lacks lustre, and symbolizes decay or the end of a cycle, much like her mother's aging and fading vitality.

प्रश्न 20 (कठिन). How does the 'second observation' contrast with the 'contrasting imagery' the poet used earlier?

उत्तर – The 'second observation' brings back the harsh reality of her mother's aging and the poet's 'childhood's fear', directly contrasting the earlier 'young trees sprinting' and 'merry children' that represented life and energy and offered a temporary distraction from her sorrow.

» Simile: Mother 'Pale as a Late Winter's Moon'

प्रश्न 21 (आसान). What two things are directly compared in the simile 'pale as a late winter's moon'?

उत्तर – The mother's face and a late winter's moon.

प्रश्न 22 (आसान). What does 'wan' mean in this context?

उत्तर – Faded, weak, or lacking colour/vitality.

प्रश्न 23 (मध्यम). How does the 'late winter's' aspect contribute to the meaning of the simile?

उत्तर – It suggests the end of a cycle, a lack of warmth or brightness, implying the mother's life is nearing its end and her energy is diminished, just as winter is ending and its moon is not vibrant.

प्रश्न 24 (कठिन). Discuss how this simile, 'pale as a late winter's moon', contributes to the overall theme of aging and loss in the poem.

उत्तर – This simile directly illustrates the physical decline of the mother, making her age and frailty palpable. The 'late winter's moon' symbolises the ebbing of life's light and warmth, evoking a sense of 'impending loss' and the poet's 'childhood's fear' of her mother's death. It highlights the painful reality of aging as a 'natural process' and the deep emotional impact it has on the poet.

» The Poet's Parting Words and Smile

प्रश्न 25 (आसान). What does 'see you soon, Amma' primarily convey?

उत्तर – Hope and reassurance.

प्रश्न 26 (आसान). The poet's 'smile and smile and smile' suggests a feeling of true joy. True or False?

उत्तर – False.

प्रश्न 27 (मध्यम). How do the parting words and smile reflect the poet's internal conflict?

उत्तर – The words express hope, while the repetitive smile masks her inner pain and fear, showing a conflict between outward appearance and inner feelings.

प्रश्न 28 (कठिन). Explain how the poet's 'smile' is a paradox in the context of her 'old familiar ache'.

उत्तर – The 'smile' is a paradox because, while a smile usually denotes happiness, here it is used to conceal the deep 'old familiar ache' (pain and fear of loss) the poet feels. It is a 'forced cheerfulness' that hides her true sorrow, making it a contradictory expression.

» Significance of the Poem's Single-Sentence Structure

प्रश्न 29 (आसान). What does 'single thread of thought' mean in the context of the poem's structure?

उत्तर – It means the poet's main idea or concern, which runs continuously throughout the poem without interruption.

प्रश्न 30 (मध्यम). How does the use of only commas, and no full stops, contribute to the poem's meaning?

उत्तर – The use of only commas suggests a continuous flow of thoughts and feelings, preventing any break or conclusion in the poet's mind regarding her mother's aging and her own anxiety.

प्रश्न 31 (कठिन). Discuss how the poem's single-sentence structure effectively links the 'observations of the real world around' to the poet's 'main idea'.

उत्तर – The single-sentence structure, with its continuous flow, shows how external observations like 'young trees sprinting' and 'merry children spilling out' are not separate thoughts but rather directly feed into and amplify the poet's primary concern—her mother's aging and the inevitable passage of time. They become part of the same unbroken emotional journey.

हल किए हुए उदाहरण (step-by-step)

उदाहरण 1. Write a short paragraph describing Kamala Das's contribution to Indian poetry, focusing on her unique style.

- › Start by introducing Kamala Das as a prominent Indian poet.
- › Mention her birthplace and background (Malabar, Kerala).
- › Describe her poetic style using keywords like 'originality,' 'versatility,' and 'indigenous flavour.'
- › Explain how she portrays 'complex subtleties of human relationships.'
- › Conclude by stating that 'My Mother at Sixty-six' is a perfect example of her style.

उत्तर – Kamala Das, born in Malabar, Kerala, is celebrated as one of India's foremost poets. Her unique style is marked by 'originality,' 'versatility,' and an 'indigenous flavour of the soil,' making her works deeply relatable. She is renowned for her sensitive portrayal of the 'complex subtleties of human relationships' in a 'lyrical idiom.' Her poem 'My Mother at Sixty-six' stands as a poignant illustration of her distinctive poetic voice and her ability to capture profound emotional truths.

उदाहरण 2. Explain the significance of the phrase 'her face ashen like that of a corpse' in the poem.

- › The phrase 'ashen like that of a corpse' highlights the mother's extreme pallor and lifeless appearance. 'Ashen' refers to a grey, pale colour, like ash.
- › Comparing her face to a 'corpse' (a dead body) emphasizes the profound impact of old age and weakness on her mother.
- › It suggests that the mother is very frail and close to the end of her life, evoking a sense of fear and pain in the poet.
- › This imagery confronts the poet with the harsh reality of her mother's mortality and the irreversible march of time.

उत्तर – The phrase signifies the mother's extreme paleness, weakness, and the stark visual reality of her impending mortality due to old age, deeply disturbing the poet.

उदाहरण 3. Explain the simile in the line: 'The old man's beard was as white as snow.'

- › पहला कदम: Simile को पहचानो। इस वाक्य में 'as white as snow' simile है।
- › दूसरा कदम: तुलना करने वाले शब्द देखो। यहाँ 'as' शब्द का इस्तेमाल किया गया है।
- › तीसरा कदम: किन चीज़ों की तुलना हो रही है? यहाँ बूढ़े आदमी की दाढ़ी की सफेदी की तुलना बर्फ की सफेदी से की जा रही है।
- › चौथा कदम: इस तुलना का क्या प्रभाव है? यह दिखाता है कि दाढ़ी बहुत ज़्यादा और पूरी तरह से सफेद थी, जैसे ताज़ा बर्फ होती है।

उत्तर – The simile 'as white as snow' compares the old man's beard to snow using the word 'as'. It effectively conveys the extreme whiteness and purity of his beard.

उदाहरण 4. कवि ने बाहर की दुनिया के किन दो दृश्यों का वर्णन किया और ये उनकी मनःस्थिति को कैसे प्रभावित करते हैं?

- › पहला दृश्य 'Young Trees sprinting' है – युवा पेड़ जो तेज़ी से आगे बढ़ते हुए दिखते हैं।
- › दूसरा दृश्य 'merry children spilling out of their homes' है – खुश बच्चे जो अपने घरों से बाहर निकल कर खेल रहे हैं।
- › ये दोनों दृश्य 'youth, energy, and life' यानी जवानी, ऊर्जा और जीवन से भरे हुए हैं।
- › कवि ने इन दृश्यों का उपयोग अपने दुख और 'childhood's fear' से ध्यान हटाने के लिए किया, जो उन्हें अपनी माँ के बुढ़ापे और कमजोरी को देखकर महसूस हो रहा था।
- › यह 'contrasting imagery' कवि को 'temporary distraction' देती है, और बुढ़ापे की उदासी के सामने जीवन की

निरंतरता और खुशहाली को दर्शाती है।

उत्तर – कवि ने 'Young Trees sprinting' और 'merry children spilling out of their homes' का वर्णन किया। ये दृश्य उन्हें अपनी माँ के बुढ़ापे से उत्पन्न दुख और डर से ध्यान हटाने में मदद करते हैं और जीवन की जीवंतता का एक विरोधाभासी चित्र प्रस्तुत करते हैं।

उदाहरण 5. Explain the significance of the phrase 'wan, pale as a late winter's moon' in relation to the poet's mother.

› The poet describes her mother as 'wan, pale as a late winter's moon' during her second observation.

› The 'wan' and 'pale' suggest a lack of colour, vitality, and health, indicating old age and frailty.

› A 'late winter's moon' is typically dim, hazy, and lacks the brightness and energy of a full, vibrant moon.

› This comparison emphasizes the mother's fading beauty, lost youth, and decreasing energy, similar to how the winter moon loses its brilliance.

› It also conveys a sense of impending end or decay, mirroring the poet's fear of losing her mother.

उत्तर – The phrase highlights the mother's advanced age, loss of vitality, and fading life, evoking the poet's deep-seated fear of separation and loss.

उदाहरण 6. Explain the significance of the simile 'pale as a late winter's moon' in the poem 'My Mother at Sixty-six'.

› Identify the two elements being compared: the mother's 'wan, pale' face and a 'late winter's moon'.

› Describe the characteristics of a 'late winter's moon': it is dull, lacks brightness, often obscured by mist or fog, and signifies the end of a cycle.

› Connect these characteristics to the mother's appearance: her face is 'wan' (faded, weak) and 'pale' (colourless), reflecting her old age and declining health.

› Explain the symbolic meaning: the fading brightness of the moon represents the mother's 'fading vitality and energy', and the 'impending sense of loss' or the nearing end of her life.

› Relate it back to the poet's emotions: this imagery evokes the poet's deep-seated 'childhood's fear' of losing her mother.

उत्तर – The simile 'pale as a late winter's moon' compares the poet's aging mother's 'wan, pale' face to the dull, weak light of a late winter moon. This comparison effectively conveys the mother's 'fading vitality and energy', her deteriorating health, and the 'impending sense of loss' that deeply troubles the poet, bringing back her 'childhood's fear' of separation and death.

उदाहरण 7. कवयित्री के विदाई के शब्द 'see you soon, Amma' और उनकी मुस्कुराहट 'smile and smile and smile' क्या दर्शाते हैं?

› पहला, हम 'see you soon, Amma' शब्दों पर ध्यान देंगे। यह सीधे-सीधे 'hope' और 'optimism' दिखाते हैं, कि कवयित्री अपनी माँ से फिर मिलने की उम्मीद कर रही हैं।

› दूसरा, हम 'smile and smile and smile' को देखेंगे। यह सिर्फ एक साधारण मुस्कुराहट नहीं है, बल्कि एक 'repetition' है जो इसके 'forced' या 'deliberate' होने पर जोर देती है।

› तीसरा, इन दोनों को एक साथ देखेंगे। जब मन में 'old familiar ache' हो, तो यह मुस्कुराहट 'hidden pain' को 'mask' करती है, यानी छिपाती है।

› तो, यह एक तरफ तो माँ को 'reassurance' देती है कि सब ठीक है, और दूसरी तरफ कवयित्री अपने 'pain' को छिपाती हैं ताकि माँ चिंतित न हों। यह 'forced cheerfulness' है।

उत्तर – कवयित्री के विदाई के शब्द 'see you soon, Amma' माँ से फिर मिलने की 'hope' और 'optimism' दिखाते हैं। उनकी बार-बार की मुस्कुराहट 'smile and smile and smile' उनके 'hidden pain' और 'fear' को छिपाने के लिए एक

'forced cheerfulness' है, ताकि वह अपनी माँ को 'reassure' कर सकें कसिब ठीक है।

उदाहरण 8. Explain how the single-sentence structure of the poem 'My Mother at Sixty-six' reflects the poet's state of mind.

- › The poem is written as 'a single sentence, punctuated by commas,' meaning there are no full stops to break the thought.
- › This 'uninterrupted flow' suggests a continuous stream of consciousness in the poet's mind.
- › Her thoughts about her mother's aging are constant and central.
- › Any 'observations of the real world around' (like 'young trees' or 'merry children') are immediately 'connected to the main idea' of her mother's declining health and her own fear of loss.
- › This structure emphasizes the poet's deep anxiety and the seamless way her internal fears blend with external reality.

उत्तर – The single-sentence structure of the poem reflects the poet's continuous, uninterrupted stream of thought and deep-seated anxiety about her mother's aging. It shows how her observations of the external world are constantly intertwined with and connected to her central fear of loss, creating a seamless flow of consciousness.

बोर्ड परीक्षा के लिए खास

- Kamala Das के साहित्यिक परिचय पर आधारित छोटे प्रश्न (MCQs, one-liners) बोर्ड परीक्षा में आ सकते हैं।
- कविता की पहली कुछ लाइनों की Imagery और Metaphors पर ध्यान दें, खासकर 'ashen like that of a corpse' – ये बोर्ड परीक्षा में अक्सर पूछा जाता है।
- बोर्ड परीक्षा में, जब simile पर आधारित प्रश्न आएँ, तो सिर्फ simile की पहचान नहीं करनी, बल्कि यह भी बताना है कि कवि ने उसका इस्तेमाल क्यों किया और उसका क्या प्रभाव है।
- इस कविता में 'contrasting imagery' का सवाल अक्सर आता है। आपको 'Young Trees' और 'Merry Children' को 'mother's aging and paleness' से कैसे compare करते हैं, यह अच्छे से समझना होगा।
- यह उपमा (simile) बोर्ड परीक्षा के लिए बहुत महत्वपूर्ण है! इसके प्रतीकात्मक अर्थ को विस्तार से समझना, खासकर 'late winter's' के महत्व को, बहुत ज़रूरी है।
- यह प्रश्न बोर्ड परीक्षा में अक्सर 'long answer type' में आता है, जहाँ आपको 'parting words' और 'smile' के 'deeper meaning' को समझना होगा।
- बोर्ड परीक्षा में, इस संरचना की 'significance' पर सवाल आ सकता है; इसे केवल 'grammatical choice' न समझें, बल्कि 'poet's state of mind' से जोड़कर व्याख्या करें।

एक नज़र में रिवीज़न

- › Kamala Das: Indian poet, Malabar, original, versatile, indigenous flavour, human relationships.
- › Poet saw mother 'doze', 'ashen' face 'like a corpse', felt 'childhood's fear'.
- › Simile: Compares two unlike things using 'like' or 'as'.
- › Poet uses 'Young Trees sprinting' & 'Merry Children' as contrasting imagery for distraction from aging.
- › Mother's 'pale as late winter's moon' shows fading vitality, impending loss, childhood fear.
- › Parting words: hope/reassurance; Smile: hidden pain, forced cheerfulness.
- › Single sentence = continuous thought, no breaks, all observations linked to main idea.