

# Kamala Das: A Precursor of Growth of New Trends in Indian English Literature

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## ABSTRACT

*Kamala Das: (31 March 1934 - 31 May 2009) the most polemic and impugnable feminine Indian writer, introduces the new trends of writing to the constellation of Indo Anglian writers. As a forerunner feminist she tries to establish strongly her notion of women's pitiable and helpless condition for the sake of unattainable love in this male dominated world. No one before her tried to express this harsh truth so boldly. Breaking all the orthodox manners and styles she avowedly and baldly depicts the nakedness of the society based with love, lust and sexuality. Unlike Sri Aurobindo, Sarojini Naidu and Taru Dutta, Mrs. Das like a true fighter dauntlessly exposes the theme and concept in her writing and opens a new gateway of modern literature. What makes Mrs. Das differ from others is her feminine sensibility, promiscuity in love, psychic striptease, catholicity and above all new styles and dictions.*

**Keywords :** Pioneer feminist, trends setter, beardlessness, catholicity, promiscuity in love, psychic stripteases, dauntlessness

## I INTRODUCTION

Kamala Das, a legend, a fighter and a vehement protestant is a mouthpiece of all feminist writers and is Revolutionary in attitude and work. To speak of modern feminist writers is to speak of Kamala Das for her contribution in the firmament of Indo Anglian literature. She possesses the courage and spirit to bring the harsh truth of reality about women, the ever sufferers. She sees, feels the pitiable conditions of women in the male dominated society and therefore raises her voice against the male practice. It is not so easy to stop this evil practice on women. Before her, no writers or protestors can be seen to exhibit this heart rending situation of women under the shadow of lust in this civilized society. But it is Mrs Das who shows her feist to forecast the saga of suffering of women and its dismal picture.

Madhavikutty is the Nick name of Kamala Das and Kamala Suryya is her Muslim name. She takes birth on 31 March, 1934 at Thrissur in Malabar Coast in Kerala. She dares to say about the lust of sexual love of women and a lot of experiences on it. She is the only generation woman writer of new trends by which she enlightens the Personal rather than colonial experience of a generation. Most of her writings (poetry, essays, short stories, and memoirs) are written under the Nick name Madhavikutty. The languages she likes to use for her writing are of both English and Malayalam. The collection of poetry like "" Summer in Calcutta (1965), the Descendants (1967) etc are to be mentioned for attributing respect to her. Her subsequent language of works which stir our hearts are "Alphabet of lust" a novel (1976), "A doll for the child prostitute (1977), & " Padmavati the harlot"(1992) are her two notable short stories. The short story collection in the Malayalam language is "Thanuppu" (1967) and the memoir "Balyakalasmarnakal(1987) ;memoirs of childhood days is perhaps her best autobiographical writing. " The Ente katha" in Malayalam language and "My story" In English is regarded as her classical writing.

## II EXCELLENCY OF USING LANGUAGE

The new trend that must be included to describe her generosity is her tricks in using English words and phrases. She uses a wide range of vocabularies. She exposes deep and pithy themes using precise words.

## III STYLE OF USING WORDS AND PHRASES

Kamala Das acclaims high position for liking of words which she uses Combiningly into phrases, clauses and sentences. She is very careful about choosing words though her words are not splendid, they are very tough and simple. Being a Confessional speaker poet, her tone of writing is Conversational as well as confessional and colloquial. Her mastery over phrases are proved as she speaks: "Cowering

Beneath your monstrous ego I ate the magic. Became a dwarf (The old play House).

Repetition of words: Another trick of her writing is to use words and lines once more and the sections are used again and again in her poems. It therefore increases the impact of emotion of ideas. This style reminds us of D. H. Lawrence and Dylan Thomas.

Skill in using rhyme: Mrs Das is regarded as the master for her choosing of rhyme in her poem. Critics opine that her style of rhythm exposes the strong feelings. Though her poems are non-metrical they are rather full of rhythms. "An Introduction" a poem by Kamala Das bears strong rhythmic style.

Use of imagery: The poems written by Mrs Das are full of images and symbols. The images and symbols she uses in her poems are taken from common place of common life. She has used the images and symbols to depict her own life as well as love and sex. The "Freaks", "The sun shine cat", "The old play hose" etc deal with such images and symbols.

5) Mrs Das is called undoubtedly a new trends setter for boldness and frankness to admit the harsh truth about life, love and sex. Unlike Taru Dutta, Sarajini Naidu and Sri Aurobinda, she conferences breaking all the past traditions of writings and challengingly exposes the unexposed theme and concepts of life, love and sex. In his book "The new poets" (1967) M. L Rosenthal who gave a suitable title to the school of "confessional poets"; rightly points out that her best confessional poetry is that which rises above the subject matter to achieve a kind of victory over pain defeat and the poems which are glosses on the triumph of life. And Ribert philips adds to this, "The best confessional poems are more than conceptions. They are revelations of their cheaters personal vexations and predicaments. "" (Foot note 1)

6) A confessional poet does not feel any restrictions on subject matter. Being free he writes about his beloved one. Anything of his personal life may the theme. Kamala Das who follows the general of foreign writers adds a wide range of heart rending and trembling theme .For example-"Her poetry never reaches a stage of sickness and breakdown in her morbid moods Kamala Das comes close to the pathological states of confessional poetry when she steers self-piety on the one hand and the exhibitionism on the other, she is profoundly moving and the loneliness and despair come through ""( Fnt 2).

7).Kamala Suryya Das being a child of the Hindu family becomes a domestic Hindu woman and this worships Lord Krishna and considers Him as the symbol of love and she calls herself as Radha or Mira. But a marvellous change is found within her on December 16, 1999, she becomes Muslim. Mrs Das in front of media announces as Muslim and transforms Krishna to Allah as her God. After changing her self identity she shows her taste for wearing Muslim dresses. Not only that, she gives importance on Muslim Burka which according to her is not only a garment but also it is a safe guard or medium of protection of women. Let's see what she wants to say in this regard- "Purdah is the most beautiful dress for women in this world. I have always to wear the purdah; it gives a woman a sense of security. Only Islam gives protection of women. I have been loved through my life (by Muslim). At night, I used to sleep by embracing a pillow. But I am no longer a loner. Islam is my company. It is the only religion in the world that gives love and protection too. Therefore I have converted, 'Syryya makes her points. ""( Fnt 3)

8) Her boldness is seen again when she utters -"It is true that I am in love. I am in love with a person. Only four persons know my mobile number, my three sons and my lover. I plan to marry him in six months. "" (4)

She does not hide anything of her personal life. People may criticize for her nakedness and audacity but cares nothing. Mrs. Das announces in serious mode I "I kept my desire a secret for a long. But now the time has come when I can no longer remain a Hindu. I hate being cremated as a Hindu. I love being buried as a Muslim. "" (4)

She roughly tells about importance of meaninglessness of material love or sexual love: and in sorrow full tone expresses her view: "As the convict studies  
His prisons geography  
I study the trappings  
Of your body my dear love  
For I must someday find  
An escape from in snare. "" (5)

#### IV CONCLUSION

Thus, it can easily be said that as an emerging trends setter kamala Das is claimed as an international one. From and within Indian sources her contribution on Indo Anglian literature will be praised and be claimed as an exceptional. Her glory as a post-colonial writer will remain intact and alive for all ages to come.

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