
Poem - 1
My Mother at Sixty-Six

by KAMALA DAS

SUMMARY -

The poet is driving from her parents home to Cochin by car, her mother by her side—sleeping –open mouthed very pale, colorless and frail-like a dead body indicating that her end was near. The poet looks at her and feels intense pain and agony to realize that soon death will cast her mother from her. Tries to divert her mind, looks outside at the young trees and happy children bursting out of their homes in a playful mood (a contrasting image) After the security check at the airport looked again at her mother’s face—pale and cold.

“Familiar ache-My childhood fear” –the poet has always had a very intimate and close relationship with her mother and she has always felt the fear of being separated from her mother hence it is familiar. The poet reassures her mother that they will meet again