

B.Sc./ B.C.A

Subject – English

3rd Semester

Kuvempu University

Session 3

Poem
MOTHER

P.Lankesh

Translated by A.K Ramanujan

Learning objectives

- To introduce the poems in translation.
- To guide appreciating the beauty of studying poetry.
- Enabling to understand the value and importance of mother in the family.

Session outcomes

- Will enable to appreciate literature in general and poetry in translation in particular.
- Will learn to respect and value mother in family, and women in society.

Recap of previous class (Session 2)

- Introduction to P. Lankesh
- ."Avva" and "Avva II" are two poems by P. Lankesh.
- **1 st stanza-**
 - Mother is compared to Mother Earth.
 - She is like a fertile(prolific) black land.
 - Every suffering make her more strong.

Recap of previous class (Session 2)

- **2nd Stanza -**

- She worked very hard in fields.
- Spent her whole life in old tattered (torn) clothes
- She never thought about her self apart from her home and never took care of herself.

- **3rd stanza-**

- She died while working. Till her death she worked.
- She lived her whole life for her family.

Mother- 4th Stanza

No, she was no Savitri,
no Sita or Urmila,
no heroin out of history books,
tranquil, fair and grave in dignity;
nor like the wives of Gandhi and Ramakrishna.
She didn't worship the gods
or listen to holy legends;
she didn't even wear, like a good wife,
any vermilion on her brow.

Summary of the 4th stanza

- She was not like famous historical personalities like Savitri, Sita, Urmila.
- She was not tranquil(calm) or fair(good) or grave(serious) and dignified in manner.
- She was rustic.(rough, rural)
- She never followed any customs or rituals of worshiping.
- She not even wore vermilion on her forehead.

5th Stanza

A wild bear
bearing a litter of little ones,
she reared a husband, saved coins in a knot of cloth;
like a hurt bitch, she bared her teeth,
growled and fought.
She was mean, crooked, ready to scratch like a monkey;
her only rule: whatever raises a family.
She would burn and flare
if a son went wild, or the husband elsewhere.

Summary of the 5th stanza

- She is compared to different animals- wild bear, hurt bitch and monkey.
- she saved her family , cared her husband and brought up her children.
- She could do anything to raise and protect her family..
- She got angry only if her son or husband got wild.

6th Stanza

A jungle bear has no need for your Gita.

My mother lived
for stick and grain, labour and babies;
for a rafter over her head,
rice, bread, a blanket;
to walk upright among equals.

Summary of the 6th stanza

- She like a wild bear needs no religious holy books.
- She lived for small things necessary for her family.
- She lived for dignity of her family.
- Meaning of 'To Walk upright'- to live a dignified life

7th stanza

Admiration, tears, thanks:
for bearing and raising us;
for living in mud and soil, for leaving as she did,
as if leaving home for the fields,
cool as usual,
in the middle of small talk.

Summary of the 7th stanza

- Poet becomes emotional and gives admiration, tears, thanks for bearing and rising them
- Lying down the basket on her head, as if leaving home for the fields, she dies.
- She worked for her family till the end of her life.

Multiple Choice questions

1.The nature of the mother in this poem is.....

- a) tranquil
- b) rustic
- c) grave
- d) dignified.

Multiple Choice Questions

2. In this poem mother is compared to

a) a wild bear

b) a dog

c) a monkey

d) all the above

Multiple Choice Questions

3. What is the meaning of the phrase 'to walk upright among equals'.

- a) To live with dignity
- b) To walk correctly
- c) To walk with equals
- d) None of the above

Multiple Choice Questions

4. The mother resembles.....

- a) Historical heroines.
- b) Wife of a well known personality
- c) A brave queen
- d) None of the above.

Multiple Choice Questions

5. The routine of the mother consists of.....

- a) Reading Geetha
- b) Worshipping God
- c) Wearing vermilion on her forehead
- d) Working in the fields

References:

- Dr. Somashekar Halathi, "P.Lankesh ", Ed-Pradhan Gurudattha, Navakarnataka Publications, 2008
- Text Book: **INVENTIONS –II**. Kuvempu University, Macmillan Publishers India Pvt. Ltd.
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/P._Lankesh.

Suggested Reading.

- Read the original poem "Avva" and "Avva II" in Kannada written by P.LANKESH