

# WORDS BY KAMALA DAS

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# THE TEXT

All round me are words, and words and words,  
They grow on me like leaves, they never  
Seem to stop their slow growing  
From within... But I tell my self, words  
Are a nuisance, beware of them, they

## **TEXT CONTD...**

**Can be so many things, a**

**Chasm where running feet must pause, to**

**Look, a sea with paralyzing waves,**

**A blast of burning air or,**

**A knife most willing to cut your best**

## TEXT CONTD...

Friend's throat... Words are a nuisance, but.

They grow on me like leaves on a tree,

They never seem to stop their coming,

From a silence, somewhere deep within...

# INTRODUCTION TO THE POET

**Kamala Suraiya or better known as Kamala Das is a well known female Indian writer writing in English as well as Malayalam, her mother tongue.**

**She is considered one of the outstanding Indian poets writing in English, although her popularity in Kerala is based chiefly on her short stories and autobiography .**

# ANALYSIS

Words by Kamala Das is a short poem describing the power of words and the poet's fear of them as they keep growing in her.

This poem, like her other poem "An Introduction" is also Confessional.

The poem may be analyzed in three parts.

## ANALYSIS CONTINUED

In the first part (All round me are words.....from within), the poet says that she is surrounded by words. (All round me are words, and words and words. Here the literary device used is called Anaphora which is the deliberate repetition of the words for emphasis.

By comparing her poetry with the leaves, the poet refers to some hidden instinct which causes the words to come out like photosynthesis in the leaves. Neither this instinct stops nor the growth of the words.

## PART II

In the 2nd part (But I tell myself.....best friend's throat), the poet says that she often warns herself as the words or the poetry are quite annoying. She uses Metaphor and compares her poetry with various things to justify her argument why she doesn't like her poetry.

Sea with paralysing waves refer to the society which doesn't allow the woman to write, to imagine, to confess and to be free. Hence the words are problem for her in particular and all the women in general.



## **PART III**

**In the final part (Words are a nuisance....somewhere deep within), the poet repeats the beginning words. According to her, the words are annoying as they keep growing in her. They never stop coming from inside i.e. her heart which is suffering.**

**Hence the poem ends in grief describing the problems that a woman writer has to face in a male-dominated society.**