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**AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ELEMENTS IN WRITINGS OF
 KAMLA DAS AND PREETI SHENOY**

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Abstract:

Kamla Das has made a major contribution to Indian English writings at both the thematic and the stylistic levels. She has modernized and revolutionized Indian feminine poetic psyche. She has taken up some new themes and has also dealt with the unusual themes from a new angle. With Kamla Das, woman's experiences became a valid subject matter for poetry and autobiography in Indian English writings. In her works, she gave ample expression to her feminine cum-feminist consciousness. A woman's body, mind, heart and soul were unraveled as she gave vent to joys, sorrows, hopes and fears of womankind. This wagon is further propelled by prominent cosmopolitan woman writer Preeti Shenoy, who expresses woman as modern women struggling all the holla hopes of current technology driven economies of this globalised world.

Key Words: *Enthusiast, agony, patriarchy, blog and autobiography.*

Autobiographies are those pieces of literature which are profoundly submerged in filtered hearts; what to say? and up to what extent they are relocated so that the family and other related personalities are not hampered or tempered by them. It is a magical maze where no way out is seen, like mouse tracks where every direction is known to the writer in its best context but still rememory pinches remembrance to muteness as sucked feelings give repression. Kamla Das's autobiography *My Story* also deals with the same themes divided into chapter form for readers readiness to focus on different issues from different emotional points, that is search your area of interest and read the book to your own convenience. This thing is the converging link between Kamla Das and Preeti Shenoy which forced my urges to write on them as clubbed writers. Both are bold enough not to tolerate any injustice or discrimination in quest of true love only situations are different because of socio political scenario and time gap between their writings. It is best explained in Du Bois's terms:

“It is a sense of looking at oneself through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity.”

Kamla had her first lesson of discrimination from early childhood as a dark girl from south India while she was a student in Calcutta. She described when the school had distinguished visitors, the brown children were discreetly hidden away, asked to wait in the corridor behind the laboratories with the school ayahs for company. She had to fight for his brother when his white schoolmates not only made fun of him but also tortured him until he bleed from the nose. She had grown up with a feeling of neglect as her workaholic father had little time for his children and did not know how to show his affection. Add on to this was her mother, 'vague and indifferent', most of the time engaged in writing. She felt her parents were horribly mismatched that's why she and her brother bore the burden of a swarthy skin and ordinary features. She characterizes her relation with her brother as:

“the kind a leper may feel for his mate who pushed him on a hand cart when they went on their begging rounds.”

This is further beautifully contradicted by the enriching experiences of Preeti Shenoy, she says life is a collection of moments, some memorable and some mundane. Often it is the tiniest things that bring the greatest joys, even though at that time, we have no idea that what we are witnessing may be magical later on we will remember it with a smile or laugh over it. As she says in “Love A Little Stronger”:

“I will-tell-Mummy” moments.

Childhood memories are the foundation of the bond that you share with your siblings. The behaviour patterns we establish in childhood get carried forward into our adult lives too. All descriptions you find in Preeti's books are positive and hopeful either as a child or as a mother. Time paid to a child is the best gift any parent could give to their siblings. Famous critique Arthur Rubinstein well said:

“I have found that if you love life, life will love you back.”

When someone dear to us dies, the feeling of loss stays with us. We carry the pain in our hearts and learn to cope, managing everything without them. We remember what our loved ones used to say and we try our best to recall every detail about them, so that we keep them alive in our memories. This is a strong element of autobiographies, the reason where the author of an autobiography is narrating his own story, reassembling the scattered elements of his individual life and regrouping them in a comprehensive sketch.

Conclusion:

In writings of Kamla Das and Preeti Shenoy, pain is common binding factor but the outburst because of difference of childhood nurturing shaped different perspectives of revelations making one bold bombastic writer banned by parents on one hand and other bursting best seller author. Packed with her hilarious narratives, poignant observations and a writing style loved by millions across the world, her (Preeti's) books strike a chord with anybody who has a children or who has been a child, themselves!

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