

Toru Dutt

Lotus

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Love came to Flora asking for a flower
That would of flowers be undisputed queen,
The lily and the rose, long, long had been
Rivals for that high honour. Bards of power
Had sung their claims. "The rose can never tower
Like the pale lily with her Juno mien"—
"But is the lily lovelier?" Thus between
Flower factions rang the strife in Psyche's bower.

Give me a flower delicious as the rose
And stately as the lily in her pride"—
"But of what colour?"—"Rose-red," Love first chose,
Then prayed,—"No, lily-white,—or, both provide;"
And Flora gave the lotus, "rose-red" dyed,
And "lily-white,"—the queenliest flower that blows.

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Analysis of the poem 'Lotus'

Toru Dutt was one of the earliest poets of Indian English writing. Being born in Bengal province in 1857 in the prestigious Dutt family, Toru Dutt started his writing in a very early age. Although she lived a short span of life but in this short age she wrote her name among the great poets of India. She had a god gifted talent and skills for writing but her early death stopped her progress and made her the youngest poet of India. 'The Lotus' is one of the finest flowers of the poetical garden of Toru Dutt. In this poem, the poet presents the idea that the Indian Lotus is the most beautiful of all flowers. The poem is written in a petrarchan sonnet form i.e divided in octave and

sestet form. In the Octave part, the poet presents the problem of selecting the queenliest of flower. In the sestet part, she presents the solution. The poem starts with a conflict among the flowers. For a long time, lily and rose had been fighting for the title of 'Queen of flowers'. The poet tells that both lily and rose used their 'bard of power' in their fight over this title. Since the poet had lived many years in European countries so she used greek and roman mythologies to support their stand. The rose is described as never reaching the level of the lily flower, because the lily has a strong willed demeanour. In the last line of the octave, this fractions of flowers reach its climax where all flower groups form cliques in a bitter conflict. The sestet part presents the solution of this rivalry. The poet uses Greek mythologies to present her ideas. In Greek mythologies Love symbolizes Cupid, god of love. At this fraction of flowers, god of love came to flora, goddess of flowers and spring, to create a flower 'as delicious as the rose' and 'stately as the lily in her pride'. As a result Flora creates a flower by combining the characteristics of rose and lily. She creates the lotus flower that combines the redness of rose with paleness of the lily.

Thus, Toru dutt has beautifully presented her ideas about the superiority of lotus flower. In Hindu mythology lotus occupies a respectable position among flowers as it is the place of god. Toru dutt wanted to acknowledge her Indian background for others to understand love for her native country. The poem is written in petrarchan sonnet form in which the octave presents the tensions generated by rival flowers with their positive and negative points and the sestet diffuses the tension, by ignoring the claims of rose and lily, and selecting lotus as queenliest of flower. The poet has used much figures of speech to express his ideas. She personifies Love, Flora, rose and lily. Simile is frequently used to heighten the rivalry in "Rose can never tower like pale lily" and 'a flower as delicious as the rose'. Words like 'Love', 'Flora', 'Juno', and 'Psyche' are borrowed from Greek mythologies but it increases the beauty of the poem.

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Aurobindo

The Tiger and the Deer

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Brilliant, crouching, slouching, what crept through the green heart of the forest,
Gleaming eyes and mighty chest and soft soundless paws of grandeur and murder?
The wind slipped through the leaves as if afraid lest its voice and the noise of its steps perturb the
pitiless Splendour,
Hardly daring to breathe. But the great beast crouched and crept, and crept and crouched a last
time, noiseless, fatal,
Till suddenly death leaped on the beautiful wild deer as it drank
Unsuspecting from the great pool in the forest's coolness and shadow,
And it fell and, torn, died remembering its mate left sole in the deep woodland, -
Destroyed, the mild harmless beauty by the strong cruel beauty in Nature.
But a day may yet come when the tiger crouches and leaps no more in the dangerous heart of the
forest,
As the mammoth shakes no more the plains of Asia;
Still then shall the beautiful wild deer drink from the coolness of great pools in the leaves'
shadow.
The mighty perish in their might;
The slain survive the slayer.

(1930, revised 1942)

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Analysis of the poem :

The poem entitled 'The Tiger and The Deer' is one of the finest poems of Indian English poetry written by Sri Aurobindo. Aurobindo is considered as the supreme master of Indian English literature. He was not only a poet but also a philosopher, short story writer, dramatist, freedom

fighter, and spiritual leader. 'Savitri' is the epic which proves the culmination of his poetic career. He joined the Indian independence movement to free his native land from the clutch of British rule and later moved towards the spirituality. The poem 'Tiger and the deer' is a short didactic poem written in 1930 and revised in 1942. The poem, literally, presents the law of forest where a weak animal like deer is killed by a mighty dangerous wild animal like tiger. The poem begins with the description of the tiger who is crouching and slouching towards the innocent deer. The deer comes to the great pool in the deep forest to quench his thirst by cold water. It is unaware of the tiger's plan of attack. Showing the fearful appearance of tiger, the poet writes that the gleaming eyes, mighty chest, and soft soundless paws can frighten anyone. The tiger crouches slowly to attack the deer and torn it into pieces. The deer dies pathetically with remembering its mate lonely in the forest. The poet tells that the mild harmless beauty of nature is destroyed by the cruel beauty of the nature. The poet closes the poem with a note of optimism. He expresses his idea that those who harm others will be destroyed like the mammoth which rule over Asia once a time but it is extinct now. Similarly the tiger and other harmful animal would end their life like mammoth. But then the deer would drink water without any fear from the cool ponds of the dense forest. Thus in the concluding lines of the poem, the poet expresses his longing for a peaceful and harmless world.

The poem is full of symbolical meanings. Here the poet presents his spiritual ideas and shows a contrast between good and evil, innocence and experience, and life and death. The tiger symbolizes death, darkness, and arrogance whereas the deer, in the poem, suggests innocence, softness and love. The killing of the innocent deer by tiger symbolizes the death and destruction of healthy values of life by materialistic life of western civilization. The poet has used alliterative language. The poem has the theme of blood and murder but the language is not cacophonous. The

poet seems to express his spiritual idea that in spite of various struggles and sufferings, life is a thing to be enjoyed. The phrase 'coolness of great pools in the leaves' symbolizes love and sympathy, peace and prosperity. The poet has carefully chosen words which increases the beauty of the poem. The words like 'gleaming eyes' , 'mighty chest' , 'soft soundless paws' etc is used freely to show the dangerous appearance of the tiger whereas the poet uses negative word as 'wild deer' for innocent animal.

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