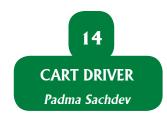
## Tulip series book-ix





adma Sachdev born on 17th April, 1940 is a prominent Dogri poet and short story writer. Her writings have given a new face lift to Dogri literature. She has been widely read and acknowledged in the literary circles. She has written about women related subjects, nature and human emotions. Her poetry is intensely emotional.



She was awarded 1971 Sahitya Academy Award for her collection of poems *Meri Kavita, Meray Geet*. Her short stories have also made a mark in the field of Dogri literature. Besides, five anthologies of poetry Padma has penned for DiwanKhana and Mitwa Ghar. Painful experiences in Chest Disease Hospital, Srinagar enriched the poetess emotionally and intellectually.

The poem is about the love a mother has for her children. It's an eerie atmosphere that creates fear and dread. It's a tussle between the love mother has for her own self and the love she has for her children.

In the fearful silence of the forest

I hear

The sound of paws

Of a careful bulbul

Out in the night shaking the feathers on his head

To find food for its four little ones,

Hungry in the nest.

Moving slowly, afraid, its ears pricked to pick some sound somewhere

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with a grain in its beak

it hastens to the nest

its twittering fledglings do not know

the forest is in the throes of fear

they continue chirping.

The bulbul trembles

Moves with his head raised

Alert, all ears.

Suddenly there is a sound of wheels

The sound of dry leaves crackling

The sound rising and subsiding

The bulbul hides itself in the bushes.

It sees

A bullock cart laden with goods

Bullocks moving by themselves

Heads down

The driver asleep, snoring

Eyes covered with the end of his turban

What if the cart stumbles!

The cart drivers' hookah overturns!

The forest catches fire!

It imagines the forest on fire

Wishes to run towards its nest

To save its young ones

But cannot lift its legs

Out of fear.

(Translated from Dogri by Dr. Karan Singh)

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## Glossary

prick prik raise the ears.

twitter 'twitə' to sing like a bird.

**fledglings** '**fled3.linz** young bird with new flight feathers.

in the throes/ $In/\eth \partial / \theta reuz/$  experiencing or doing something which is difficult,

unpleasant or painful.

crackling 'kræk.ling series of noise.

**snore** snor to breathe in a very noisy way while you are sleeping.

stumble 'stambl fall.

### Thinking about the Poem

1. Why is the bulbul afraid? Why does the bulbul want to hasten to its nest?

2. Why does the bulbul hide itself in the bushes?

3. What does the bulbul imagine?

4. What feelings does the bulbul's imagination arouse in the readers?

5. Why is the poem named 'cart driver'?

6. Have you ever feared anything either in the reality or in your imagination?

Write an account of your feelings in 300 words.

## Learning about the literary device

1. What images does the poet use to create an atmosphere of fear and silence in the poem?

#### Discussion

The poem reveals a tussle between the love a mother has for her children and the love the mother has for own self as a person. Discuss.

## **Suggested Reading**

An Evening Wet with Rain by Ved Pal Deep Singh.

Christabel by Coleridge.

# **Quote to remember**

The only fear we have to fear is fear itself.

Roosevelt