

Seeds

As the daylight dawns,
miles, miles away
glancing over the mountain range;
she sows her seeds.

As the riptide breaks,
miles, miles away
thrashing against the lonely shore;
she sows her seeds.

As the rain falls,
the winds change,
the sky darkens, darkens, darkens;
she sows her seeds.

She plants her hope where
she sows her seeds.

She buries her fears and
tends her grief.

She invests her love where
she sows her seeds.

She nurtures her dreams and
feeds belief.

As the daylight dawns,

the riptide breaks,

the sky darkens, darkens, darkens!

She sows...

She sows...

She sows.

She toils beneath the burning sun;

dirt tracks beneath her dirty soles.

Beneath her dirty soles they grow

most faithfully.

She greets the tender new-born shoots

most carefully.

She greets them with gentility, compassion and fidelity.

She greets the seeds as if

they were her own .

And yet those seeds: they never stay,

they morph and bend and change.

And through the wind and rain they sway,

Conformity:

kən'fɔ:miti/

noun

1. compliance with standards, rules, or laws.
2. behaviour in accordance with socially accepted conventions.

They grow.

They writhe.

They warp.

They do not conform.

Despite her efforts, her will, her wish,
they do not conform.

There's something to be said for that, isn't there?

Mother:

/'mʌðə/

noun

1. a woman in relation to a child or children to whom she has given birth.
2. (especially as a title or form of address) the head of a female religious community.

verb

1. bring up (a child) with care and affection.
2. give birth to.

Value:

/'vælju:/

noun

1. the regard that something is held to deserve; the importance, worth, or usefulness of something.
2. principles or standards of behaviour; one's judgement of what is important in life.

verb

1. estimate the monetary worth of.
2. consider (someone or something) to be important or beneficial; have a high opinion of.

Despair:

/ˈd-spâr/

verb

1. To lose all hope.
2. To be overcome by a sense of futility or defeat.

noun

1. Complete loss of hope.
2. One despaired of or causing despair.

As the daylight dawns,
miles, miles away
glancing over the mountain range;
she berates herself.

As the riptide breaks,
miles, miles away
thrashing against the lonely shore;
she doubts herself.

As the daylight dawns,
the riptide breaks,
her mind darkens, darkens, darkens!

They grow...

They grow...

Then sow
their seeds.

As the night falls, a lover's whisper upon her barren cheek,
her dirty soles,
her tired fears, and dreams, and grief
she sighs her final sigh of discontent.

As the daylight dawns,
miles, miles away
glancing over the mountain range;
her daughter sows her seeds.

Seeds - A Commentary

Within my poem, I have attempted to draw upon themes of motherhood and family values, and their respective breakdowns.

Throughout the poem, I have used the continuous metaphor of seeds and gardening as a mother raising her children. I felt that this particularly tied into the extra context of Asian Literature due to the relative prevalence of agricultural labour in Eastern as opposed to Western cultures. To further this, I took the themes of honour and expectations (often fostered by parents within Eastern cultures) and applied them to my metaphor.

I feel that my use of natural imagery: mountain ranges, sea shores and land, places the poem within the genre of the pastoral. The use of continuous, almost eternal imagery such as that of nature as well as the frequent use of enjambment was intended to create a sense of timelessness. There are no defining moments or turning points within the plot of the poem (accentuated by the fact that it is written entirely in the present tense), and this, along with the metaphor of agriculture, emphasises the theme of tradition: the family's way of life continues as it always has done. We also see this in the mother's death, and the continuation of the life through her daughter - the cyclical nature of life and the universe regardless of the cultures or values of a community. This is subtly referenced by my use of the word 'soles' – a play on the word 'soul' and its universality. Hence, the plotline and overall story of the poem is uncomplicated by either technology or the influence of an urban environment, rather it is simply concerned with the relationship between a mother and her children, stifled by traditional values. Her children struggle to break free from the confines of their culture, and eventually do so. We see this not only through the metaphor of writhing stems and leaves, but also through the loosening of rhetorical control within the structure of the poem: the interruption of the

prose with various dictionary definitions of key words, the alternation between blank verse and rhyme and the inconsistent verse structure.

The repetition of sections of verses throughout the poem represents the Mother's attempts to restore structure to the lives of her children despite their resistance, and eventually her pacifism, if not her acceptance, in regards to their rebellion. However, this repetition lacks defined structure too and so there is an underlying theme of discontent and irregularity caused by such strict enforcement of the Mother's values.

The lack of a paternal figure was deliberate. The patriarchal and misogynistic societies of so many cultures throughout the world tend to demonise women and inflict shame upon mothers whose children are not deemed traditionally 'respectable' or 'acceptable', in other words those who rebel or 'do not conform'. Often, this can lead to honour killings of the female offspring or possibly the ostracisation of the mother. I attempted to convey this through the subtle changes in the repetition of verses: 'she berates herself', 'she doubts herself', 'her mind darkens, darkens, darkens!' and the reference to her 'tired fears, and dreams, and grief'.

In conclusion, the poem is intended to make the reader think about values and the nature of relationships between a mother and her children. Due to the ambiguity of the poem (values are never explicitly referred to, only the potential consequences of them), hopefully the poem will engage the reader and encourage them to think about relationships and values in a wider context.

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