

Central Idea:

The poem “My Mother at Sixty - Six” written by Kamila Das reflects the lovely relationship of mother and daughter. In this poem, the poetess is grief-stricken owing to her ailing mother. She is pained and feels troubled over the thought of losing her mother because death is inevitable and with aging comes death and decay. The poetess expects and wishes to see her mother in good health again.

Paraphrase:

Line (1-8) : The poetess on 1st Friday was driving to the Cochin airport from her parent's home. Her mother was also sitting beside her. She (mother) was dozing with her mouth open. Her face looked pale and grey like ash. To poetess, her mother appeared a dead body. The poetess's heart pained. Her mother's colourless, lifeless and pale face like that of a dead body was showing her approaching death. The poetess drove the thought of her mother's death out of her mind and started looking out at the young trees which appeared to be running past their speeding car. She also saw some children moving happily in groups out of their homes.

Line (8-13): The poetess says that at the airport, they had to undergo a routine security check. After that she again took a look at her mother's wane and pale face. The poetess says, as the late winter's moon appears weak (feeble) and dim, likewise, her mother's face had grown weak, pale and old. And owing to this, she felt the same old familiar, childhood fear that with again comes death and decay. The poetess could do nothing except bidding a warm adieu to her mother and scattering a sweet smile on her (Poetess's) face, in a wish that she would see her mother again.