

# Resistance in the Face of Oppression: A Critical Analysis of Meena Kandasamy's *The Gypsy Goddess*

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**Abstract:** Meena Kandasamy's *The Gypsy Goddess* (2014) stands as an evocative portrayal of caste-based violence, class struggle, and gendered oppression in postcolonial India. The novel reimagines the real-life Kilvenmani massacre of 1968, where Dalit workers in rural Tamil Nadu were brutally murdered by upper-caste landlords for demanding better wages and living conditions. Through a fragmented, multi-voiced narrative, Kandasamy constructs a powerful counter-history of the oppressed, centered on the theme of resistance. In this paper, I analyze Kandasamy's nuanced exploration of how caste and gender intersect within a larger framework of class struggle, focusing on the role of collective resistance in transforming the oppressed into agents of change. By employing both literary and historical lenses, the paper examines Kandasamy's critique of both the historical marginalization of Dalits and the gendered violence faced by women within these communities. The novel's narrative style—incorporating fragmented voices, diverse perspectives, and symbolic imagery—amplifies the complexities of revolt and the reclaiming of agency. Ultimately, this paper argues that *The Gypsy Goddess* serves not only as a retelling of a historical event but as an urgent commentary on contemporary India's ongoing struggles with caste, gender, and systemic oppression.

**Keywords:** caste, resistance, feminism, oppression, Dalit struggle, postcolonial literature

