

Trauma of Inequality: A Struggle of Dalits in Meena Kandaswamy's The Gypsy Goddess

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Abstract: *Dalit is defined as a consciously chosen ideological position against the caste system. Dalit literature has established itself as a separate category of writing in many of the Indian languages. Several writings under this category have emerged as a strong voice of Dalit communities in different literatures over the last five decades. The impact of Dalit writers and writings has also compelled the literary associations and academics to recognize as a separate category of literature and reward it through several means. Dalit literature has also made a forceful case for human dignity and social equality. One of the leading voices of Indian English Literature, Meena Kandasamy is a candid activist, fierce poet, critically acclaimed novelist, and noteworthy translator of the current era. As a writer, she excels in the stark portrayal and deconstruction of caste and gender-based violence in contemporary Indian society. The Gypsy Goddess (2014) is Indian Dalit writer Meena Kandasamy's first novel. The narrator recounts the 1968 massacre of forty-four landless Dalit villagers striking for higher wages in the village of Kilvenmani, Tamil Nadu. Because the victims of the massacre were marginalized, they did not receive justice and were obliterated from history. The narrator persistently addresses the readers to force them to look at the horror of this event. This article aims at analysing Kandasamy's representations of an unrepresentable massacre in order to ponder over the ethics of the depiction of horror.*

Keywords: Justice, Horror, Caste system, Dalits, Marginalization