PREFACE

Kamala Das has been the most remarkable Indian English woman poet, since I started reading English poetry. Her poetry is highly individualistic, original and shows a sharp feminine sensibility. It expresses the hopes, fears, passions and disappointments of woman. She has a great capacity to sympathise with each and every human being. Her prose pieces in English, her novel Alphabet of Lust and her well-known autobiographical work My Story also maintain the same intensity of feeling. Kamala Das is also one of the most original bilingual writers. Critics like P.P. Raveendran have accorded her a position along with the international group of trans-lingual writers like Milan Kundera, Ngugi Wa Thiong'o and Samuel Beckett. Her short stories in Malayalam are well known for their unconventional themes and compelling style. Far from being the secluded ivory tower artist, she is well aware of her social responsibility as a writer. She considers herself “a chronicler of events.”