Appendix- A

List of poems of Kamala Das in the chronological order of publication.

Summer in Calcutta (1965)

1. The Dance of the Eunuchs
2. The Freaks
3. Words
4. Pigeons
5. The Fear of the Year
6. In Love
7. My Grandmother’s House
8. The Wild Bougainvillea
9. Winter
10. A Relationship
11. An Apology to Goutama
12. The End of Spring
13. The Flag
14. Loud Posters
15. Sepia
16. Too Early the Autumn Sights
17. Visitors to the City’
18. Spoiling the Name
19. The Child in the Factory
20. Love
21. Someone Else’s Song
22. With its Quiet Tongue
23. The Music Party
24. The Bangles
25. The Snobs
26. The Corridors
27. Radha Krishna
28. A New City
29. Farewell to Bombay
30. The Sea Shore
31. To a Big Brother
32. The Killing of Chameleons
33. Punishment in the Kindergarten
34. The Stranger and I
35. My Morning Tree
36. The Bats
37. A Hot Noon in Malabar
38. Summer in Calcutta
39. The Sunshine Cat
40. Without a Pause
41. Forest Fire
42. I Shall Some day
43. Accident in the Night
44. The Siesta
45. Afterwards
46. A Phone Call in the Morning
47. An Introduction
48. Death Brings No Loss
49. Drama
50. The Testing of the Sirens

The Descendants (1967)

1. The Suicide
2. A Request
3. Substitutes
4. The Descendants
5. Radha
6. Palam
7. Luminol
8. Annette
9. Ferns
10. The Invitation
11. The Doubt
12. Captive
13. The Proud One
14. Contacts
15. The Conflagration
16. Three P.M.
17. The Maggots
18. The Joss – Sticks at Cadell Road
19. The White Flowers
20. The Looking Glass
21. Convicts
22. Jaisurya
23. Composition

The Old Playhouse and other Poems (1973)
(Orient Blackswan brought out a hardcover version of this collection in 2011 with an introduction by V.C. Harris)

33 poems are included in this collection. Of the 33, only 13 are exclusive to this collection, the rest include poems from her earlier collections - Summer in Calcutta and The Descendants. In order to avoid duplication, the poems exclusive to this collection are listed below.

1. The Old Playhouse
2. Gino
3. Blood
4. The Inheritance
5. Glass
6. The Prisoner
7. Nani
8. Kumar Gandharva
9. The High Tide
10. After the Illness
11. The Stone age
12. The Swamp
13. Sunset, Bluebird

Tonight, this Savage Rite: The Love Poems of Kamala Das and Pritish Nandy (1979)

(Harper Collins brought out a hard cover edition of this collection in 2010)

This is a collaborative work of Kamala Das with Pritish Nandy. Of the 34 poems by Das included in this collection 16 poems are taken from her earlier collections. The remaining 18 exclusive to this collection are listed below.

1. A Losing Battle
2. A Phantom Lotus
3. Morning at Apollo Pier
4. The Blind Walk
5. My November
6. The Lion
7. Ghanashyam
8. The Caretakers
9. Lines Addressed to a Devadasi
10. A Man is a Season
11. A Paper Moon
12. For S After Twenty-five Years
13. The Westerlies
14. After the Party
15. The Latest Toy
16. The Gulmohar
17. Yvonne
18. The Winner

The Best of Kamala Das (1991)

Apart from poems from her earlier collection, the ones intrinsic to this collection are listed below.

1. Vrindavan
2. Herons
3. Weeds
4. Krishna
5. Mortal Love
6. The Carthorse
7. The Intensive Cardiac Care Unit
8. Ethics
9. The Millionaires at Marine Drive
10. Autumn Leaves
11. Cerebral Thrombosis
12. The Ancient Mango tree
13. Ischemia in August
14. Tomorrow
15. The Lion in Siesta
16. Women’s shuttles
17. A Cask of Nothing
18. Summer 1980
19. Life’s Obscure Parallel
20. Death is so Mediocre
21. A Journey with no Return
22. At Chiangi airport
23. If Death is your wish
24. A Short Trip
25. Home is a Concept
26. Maturity
27. My Sons
28. Delhi- 1984
29. Old Cattle
30. The Ferry
31. The Fatalists on Stone Benches
32. My Father’s Death
33. Wood Ash
34. The Lunatic Asylum
35. Speech
36. Fear
37. The Sea at Galle Face Green
38. Smoke in Colombo
39. Shopper at the Cornells, Colombo
40. After July
41. A Certain Defect in the Blood
42. Toys
43. Words are Birds
44. Honour
45. Daughter of the Century
46. The First Meeting
47. The Sensuous Women Ill
48. The Word is Sin
49. The House- Builders
50. The Ferry Hour
51. My Mother at Sixty Six
52. The Anamalai Hills
53. The Anamalai Poems (parts 1 to 10)

Only the Soul Knows How to Sing (1996)

Apart from the poems from the earlier collections, the poems exclusive to this collection are listed below.

1. Sleeping in the moonlight
2. A Hand like a Bonsai
3. Feline
4. Fathima
5. The Motif in the Mirror
6. The Dalit Panther
7. Too Late for making up
8. Terror
9. Peripeurperal Insanity
10. A Holiday for me
11. The Survivor
12. The Time of the Drought
13. Grey Hound
14. A Requiem for A Son
15. A Souvenir of Bone
16. A Half Day’s Bewitchment
17. The Last Act
18. Flotsam
19. The Bison at the Water’s Edge
20. Cat in the Gutter
21. If Death is Your Wish
22. A Short Trip
23. Home is a Concept
24. The Ferry
25. The Fatalists on Stone Benches
26. The Word is Sin
27. The Ferry Hour
28. Larger than Life was he
29. A Requiem for My Father
30. Next to Indira Gandhi
31. Stock Taking
32. The Rain
33. My Predecessor
34. The Cobwebs
35. Note to a Destroyer
A Faded Epaulet on his shoulders
A Widow’s Lament
For Cleo Pascal
The Summing Up
A Feminist’s Lament
Ode to Quebec
Smudged Mirrors
For Auntie Katie
My Dog
The Moon
Another Birthday
No Noon At My Village Home
The eighty-sixth Birthday
Evening At The Old Nalapat House

Closure: Some Poems and a Conversation (2009)

This is also another of her collaborative work but with Suresh Kohli. It includes poems by both and a conversation between the two. All the poems of Kamala Das in this collection are exclusive to this collection.

1. An Old Story
2. A Blessed Life
3. The Roosting Time
4. Radha’s Dream
5. Night
6. On Ageing
7. A Tethered Goat
8. The Palmyra Tree
9. A Fast Life
10. Formaldehyde
11. Thrombosis
12. The Family Home
13. Coral Snake
14. The Munafique
15. Light a Bonfire
16. The Ochre Men
17. I Shall Live on…
18. Amavasi
19. Volcano
20. End of Youth
21. A Kind of Fishing
22. The Dictation
23. The River Saraswati
24. Crossing the Desert
25. March of the Mercenaries
26. Tutankhamen’s Tomb
27. A Sorry Gift
28. Timepiece
29. Theme
30. The Magnolia
31. He is no Surgeon
32. Sleeping Scorpions
33. No envy
34. A Dull Ache
35. Angels
36. Teddy Bears
37. Fame
38. Researchers
39. With Archangels
40. Alzheimer’s

Wages of Love: Uncollected Writings of Kamala Das (2013)

This is a collection of her unpublished writings edited by Suresh Kohli. It includes fiction, non-fiction and poetry. The 16 poetry entries are listed below.

1. In the Wings
2. Noose
3. Vishu, the New Year’s Day
4. The Puddle
5. Blue Veins
6. Temples
7. Nightmare at Noon
8. Old People Out on Sunday
9. Grandmothers
10. On Camel Back
11. The Last Moment
12. Doubts
13. Aura
14. A Rind
15. Exhalations
16. Resurrection

Kamala Das: Selected Poems (2014)

This is a collection that includes representative poems from all of her collections and also the poems which were published elsewhere. Those poems which are not included so far is listed below.

1. Cochin’s Jewish Quarter
2. The New Sinhala Films
3. Hairpins and Rubber- Bands
4. A Divining Rod
5. Wild Honey
6. The Mask
7. The Maples Are Green Still
8. The Separation
9. I Dare Not Gaze again
10. A Moment's Pain
11. Scalpels
12. Alien Territories
13. The Passing of a Typhoon
14. The Circus
15. At God’s Loom
16. The Snake shrine
17. Gracious Allah

Note:

In my analysis of Kamala Das’ entire oeuvre, it is been observed that if it is at all possible to posit a stage-wise evolution going by the chronology of her publication, three possible stages that can be identified. However, it has to be explicitly stated here that there are many of her poems that refuse to be tied down to a chronology.

Thus, to posit a division, first stage comprises of the works published between 1965 and 1984. This stage is characterised by poems arising out of the liminal space created by an intense nostalgia and the need to understand her self within the various displacements. The underlying sense that is communicated is a sense of ambivalence regarding the assertion of a self, leading to a crisis, where she is not sure which self to assert- the private self or the public vocational self.

1985- 1996, forms the second stage, which is characterised by a sense of an awakened social consciousness, characterised by a journey from interior to exterior with intense self-reflection on both, and an assertion of self.

Third stage can be identified in the period from 1997 to 2009, where the dominant aspect is a sense of ennui and the notion that gaining closure, as far as self and identity are concerned, is a myth.
Appendix B

A Decade Wise Listing of Kamala Das’ poems

The rationale behind this list is to initiate a deep engagement with the shift in perception of Kamala Das, which is reflected in her poetry. I place on record here that the list that I have compiled is based on the compilation done by P.P.Raveendran, in the poetry collection *Best of Kamala Das* (1991). In this collection he undertakes a decade wise listing of her poems. However, other than the poems that figure in that collection, I have also included certain poems which I believe, show similarity with others that are pinned to a decade.

1951- 1960

The poems pertaining to this period takes a grim look at the present, with one eye pointed towards the past. Nature images as well as anthropomorphic images are found in abundance in these poems. Her writing in the initial phases, seems to be sparked off by a sense of hatred towards society which slowly moves into her engagement with self. Poems coming under this phase are listed below.

1. Pigeons
2. The Fear of the Year
3. My Grandmother’s House
4. Sepia
5. To a Big Brother
6. A Hot Noon in Malabar
7. The Siesta
8. Afterwards
9. An Introduction
10. Nani
11. Blood

1961-1970

There is a slow transition setting in and cityscape slowly enters the picture. This is also the phase when she plays with the notion of dualism/ binaries. The poems coming under this section include those poems which deal with the conflicts between body and soul, love and lust etc...Sea also becomes a powerful motif in this phase. There are also allusions or references to an idea of search for something which is shown as the reason why she started writing as she felt that there is a sense of lack within her. The presence of an absence which she believed will be filled up when she finds love is also reflected poignantly at many places. There is a possible link between her apparent loss of love and her initiation into the vocation as a writer. The conflicts within her is articulated through the recurring image of a stranger in many of her poems. Is the stranger Kamala Das itself?

Following are the list of poems that come under this phase.
1. The Dance of the Eunuchs
2. The Freaks
3. In Love
4. The Wild Bougainvillea
5. Winter
6. A Relationship
7. An Apology to Goutama
8. The End of Spring
9. The Flag
10. Loud Posters
11. Too Early the Autumn Sights
12. Visitors to the City
13. Spoiling the Name
14. The Child in the Factory
15. Love
16. Someone Else’s Song
17. With its Quiet Tongue
18. The Music Party
19. The Bangles
20. The Snobs
21. The Corridors
22. Radha Krishna
23. A New City
24. Farewell to Bombay
25. The Sea Shore
26. The Killing of Chameleons
27. Punishment in the Kindergarten
28. The Stranger and I
29. My Morning Tree
30. The Bats
31. Summer in Calcutta
32. The Sunshine Cat
33. Without a Pause
34. Forest Fire
35. I Shall Some Day
36. Accident in the Nights
37. A Phone Call in the Morning
38. An Introduction (with changes to the earlier version)
39. Death Brings No Loss
40. Drama
41. The Testing of the Sirens
42. The Suicide
43. A Request
44. Substitutes
45. The Descendants
46. Radha
This phase is characterised by a social turn in her verse, with an intense questioning of the social norms. This could be because of the testing times through which India was going through, with the Declaration of Emergency and Kamala Das’ state-sponsored exile to her homeland, Kerala. Many of her hospital poems also figure in this phase. The list of the poems are as follows.

1. The Old Playhouse
2. The Inheritance
3. Glass
4. Kumar Gandharva
5. The High Tide
6. After the Illness
7. The Stone age
8. The Swamp
9. Sunset, Bluebird
10. A Losing Battle
11. A Phantom Lotus
12. The Blind Walk
13. My November
14. The Lion
15. Ghanashyam
16. The Caretakers
17. Lines Addressed to a Devadasi
18. A Man is a Season
19. A Paper Moon
20. For S After Twenty-five Years
21. The Westerlies
22. After the Party
23. The Latest Toy
24. The Gulmohar
25. Yvonne
26. The Winner
27. Bats
28. The Ancient Mango Tree
29. Tomorrow
30. Cerebral Thrombosis
31. The Intensive Cardiac Care Unit
32. The Millionaires at Marine Drive
33. Ischaemia in August
34. Autumn Leaves
35. The Lion in Siesta
36. Ethics
37. The Cart House

1981-1990

The social consciousness is at a high, in conjunction with the public life she had and her foray into politics. There is also an element of looking back and some poems on old age.

1. Woodash
2. The Lunatic Asylum
3. Delhi 1984
4. At Chiangi Airport
5. My Sons
6. The Anamalai Hills
7. Death is Mediocre
8. The House Builders
9. Smoke in Colombo
10. Fear
11. The Sea at Galle Face Green
12. Speech
13. After July
14. Words are Birds
15. The Sensuous Woman, ill
16. Life’s Obscure Parallel
17. Women’s Shuttles
18. Old Cattle
Post 1990

The time frame considered in this section is too wide, comprising of almost two decades. Her last poetry collection came out in 2009, the same year of her passing. However, since this classification is based on an observation of her themes/concerns it is reckoned that even in the last collection there are poems reflecting the concerns since 1990s. Hence the two decades are clubbed together. More importantly during the last phase she wrote very little and from the themes of the poems in this section it can be understood that most of them might be written from the notes she might have had for poems from earlier times, before she took ill. Incidentally, most of the poems dwell upon the journeys s abroad particularly her stay in Canada with her biographer Emily Weisebord. Most of the poems included in this group are contemplation on her life and more poignantly offers a retrospective look at her lived reality. For instance, there are poems that intensely question her conversion to Islam. It could also be noted here that this is the phase in which she wrote her only collection of poetry in Malayalam “Yaa Allah”

1. Sleeping in the moon light
2. A Hand like a Bonsai
3. Feline
4. Fathima
5. The Motif in the Mirror
6. The Dalit Panther
7. Too Late for Making Up
8. Terror
9. Peripeurperal Insanity
10. A Holiday for me
11. The Survivor
12. The Time of the Drought
13. Grey Hound
14. Requiem for a son
15. A Souvenir of Bone
16. A Half Day’s Bewitchment
17. The Last Act
18. Flotsam
19. The Bison at the Water’s Edge
20. Cat in the Gutter
21. Anamalai Poems
22. Larger than Life was he
23. A Requiem for my father
24. Next to Indira Gandhi
25. Stock Taking
26. The Rain
27. My Predecessor
28. The Cobwebs
29. Note to a Destroyer
30. A Faded Epaulet on his shoulders
31. A Widow’s Lament
32. For Cleo Pascal
33. The Summing Up
34. A Feminist’s Lament
35. Ode to Quebec
36. Smudged Mirrors
37. For Auntie Katie
38. My Dog
39. The Moon
40. Another Birthday
41. No noon at my Village Home
42. The eighty-sixth Birthday
43. Evening at the Old Nalapat House
44. An Old Story
45. A Blessed Life
46. The Roosting Time
47. Radha’s Dream
48. Night
49. On Ageing
50. A Tethered Goat
51. The Palmyra Tree
52. A Fast Life
53. Formaldehyde
54. Thrombosis
55. The Family Home
56. Coral Snake
57. The Munafique
58. Light a Bonfire
59. The Ochre Men
60. I Shall Live on…
61. Amavasi
62. Volcano
63. End of Youth
64. A Kind of Fishing
65. The Dictation
66. The River Saraswati
67. Crossing the Desert
68. March of the Mercenaries
69. Tutankhamen’s Tomb
70. A Sorry Gift
71. Timepiece
72. Theme
73. The Magnolia
74. He is no Surgeon
75. Sleeping Scorpions
76. No envy
77. A Dull Ache
78. Angels
79. Teddy Bears
80. Fame
81. Researchers
82. With Archangels
83. Alzheimer’s
84. In the Wings
85. Noose
86. Vishu, the New Year’s Day
87. The Puddle
88. Blue Veins
89. Temples
90. Nightmare at Noon
91. Old People Out on Sunday
92. Grandmothers
93. On Camel Back
94. The Last Moment
95. Doubts
96. Aura
97. A Rind
98. Exhalations
99. Resurrection
100. A Divining Rod
101. Wild Honey
102. The Mask
103. The Maples Are Green still
104. The Separation
105. I Dare Not Gaze again
106. A Moment’s Pain
107. Scalpels
108. Alien Territories
109. The Passing of a Typhoon
110. The Circus
111. At God’s Loom
112. The Snake shrine
113. Gracious Allah
Appendix - C

List of poems identifying the points of liminality in Kamala Das’ poetic space

There is an inconsistency in the themes if the chronology of her published poems are taken into account. Since there is a need to address this, this appendix tries to tackle the problem by grouping her poems into different heads. Each head is identified as a point of liminality. However the poems listed under each head are not bound by time as was the case with the earlier two appendices.

She started publishing in 1965, but a look at Appendix B will suggest that she started writing earlier. So, when her entire oeuvre is taken into consideration there are about seven decades of writing that have to be accounted for. This aspect poses as a challenge to any kind of classification of her poetry. Hence this classification tries to move beyond it and tries to understand the evolution of her poetic theme and style in conjunction with her life.

The assumption under which this classification is undertaken is largely based on the idea of liminality. Poetry and more importantly creativity for Kamala Das originates from a point of liminality. For instance, the first set of poems listed below includes the poems that seem to have developed from a liminal space which she occupied while she longed for her Tharavadu, her Grandmother and her ancestral land and folktales inherent within, from her displaced locations. We could also read this into her childhood in Calcutta too. The liminal space that she straddled due to her physical displacement creates a sense of nostalgia within her. Another such space could be the one initiated by her psychological displacement created by a domesticated life and this stage is characterised by a sense of being experienced as opposed to the possible stage of innocence in her. There is also a phase characterised by a sense of ennui. There are broadly six sections here. The classification is done to make sense of the changes that have come into poetic evolution.

Poems evoking Nostalgia

The poems listed under the head of nostalgia does not adhere to the chronology of her publications. Since it is a representation or re-interpretation of a memory it reflects a sense of timelessness and such poems, pertaining to a longing for past are found throughout her career.

1. My Grandmother’s House
2. To a Big Brother (About to be Married)
3. Punishment in Kindergarten
4. A Hot Noon in Malabar
5. The Siesta
6. The Suicide
7. The Descendents
8. Captive
9. Blood
10. Nani
11. The Swamp
12. The Westerlies
13. Sleeping in the Moonlight
14. The Millionaires at Marine Drive
15. A Souvenir of Bone
16. For Auntie Katie
17. Evening at the Old Nalapat House
18. Night

Poems about her father
19. A Requiem For my Father
20. My Father’s Death
21. Next to Indira Gandhi

Poems pertaining to her Malabari roots
22. The Palmyra Tree
23. The Family Home
24. Amavasi
25. The River Saraswati
26. Sleeping Scorpions

Poems evoking a transition

The list of poems listed below evoke a certain kind of self reflexiveness about creativity and sea becomes a recurring symbol in many of the poems. As is posited in chapter one, these poems represent the liminal space from which the creative person called Kamala Das came into being.

1. Words
2. Loud Posters
3. Someone Else’s Song
4. A New City
5. Without a Pause
6. An Introduction
7. The Suicide
8. Substitute
9. The Invitation
10. Composition
11. Love
12. The High Tide
13. Morning at the Apollo Pier
14. The Blind Walk
15. A Paper Moon
16. Feline
17. Death is so Mediocre
18. A Half Day’s Bewitchment
19. The Summing Up
20. The Cart Horse  
21. The Munafique  
22. Light a Bonfire  
23. I Shall live on  
24. A Kind of fishing  
25. The Magnolia  
26. He is no surgeon  
27. Teddy Bears  
28. The End of Spring  
29. Anamalai Poems

Transition in her self

30. Researchers  
31. With Archangels  
32. The Puddle  
33. Exhalations

City Poems

These poems encapsulate a large corpus of her poems which engages with a sense of dialectics between binaries/ dualities such as love and lust, body and soul, physical and spiritual. There is also an evident note of hatred or misogynistic tendencies in these poems which could also refer to the transitions from an apparent sense of innocence to that of experience, transition within herself into a stereotype and the simultaneous need to break away from it.

1. The Dance of the Eunuchs  
2. The Freaks  
3. The Fear of the Year  
4. In Love  
5. The Wild Bougainvillea  
6. Winter  
7. A Relationship  
8. The Flag  
9. Sepia  
10. Spoiling the Name  
11. The Bangles  
12. The Testing of the Sirens  
13. An Introduction  
14. Substitute  
15. Palam  
16. The Joss- Sticks at Cadell Road
17. The Old Playhouse
18. Gino
19. Glass
20. The Stone Age
21. A Man is a Season
22. For S After Twenty-Five Years
23. After the Party
24. The Latest Toy

Radha Krishna Poems

25. An Apology to Gautama
26. Radha-Krishna
27. Radha
28. The Maggots
29. Kumar Gandharva
30. A Phantom Lotus
31. Ghanasyam
32. Lines Addressed to a Devadasi
33. Vrindavan
34. The Cobwebs
35. Radha’s Dream

Poems evoking Social Consciousness

1. The Inheritance
2. Wood Ash
3. Delhi 1984
4. The Dalit Panther
5. Terror
6. Smoke in Colombo
7. The Sea at Galle Face Green
8. After July
9. Requiem for a Son
10. If Death is your wish
11. Anamalai Poems (Sections 1–10)
12. A Tethered Goat
13. Vishu, the New Year’s Day
14. Temples

Hospital Poems

1. After the Illness
2. My November
3. The Lunatic Asylum
4. Fathima
Poems on Old age

These poems also evoke a sense of nostalgia, a looking back, but there is a slight difference here as it comes with the realisation that it is not possible to gain closure.

1. At Chiangi Airport
2. Life’s Obscure Parallel
3. Women’s shuttles
4. Old Cattle
5. Smudged Mirrors
6. Daughter of the Century
7. Another Birthday
8. The Cart House
9. On Ageing
10. The Munafique
11. End of Youth