



## TABOOS AND ETHICS: JOURNEY OF KAMALA DAS

**Alima Mudasir**

*Department Of English, Govt. College For Women Cluster university Of Kashmir, (India)*

### **ABSTRACT**

*In the mid Twentieth Century, India saw an emergence of a prominent cultural and social awakening demanding the recognition of the feminist prerogatives. Kamala Das played a pivotal role in showcasing the concerns of Indian women (which, of course, are different from women in the west) through her writings. One can say that she bluntly put forth her feminist concerns to a socio-cultural milieu which was deeply shocked at that time for her candour and openness. Some people mistook her frank demeanour for lasciviousness which upset her a lot. In the characteristically unrelenting Indian scenario Das, through her writings revolts, by way of introspectively pondering over the unfortunate state of existence in which Indian women conduct themselves. There is a confessional strain in her writing, which is highly subjective. Her love for writing began at a very young age. At the age of six, Das created a rudimentary magazine of poems where she would write poems about dolls that had lost their heads and were doomed to remain headless for eternity. At the age of fifteen Das was married off to a bank Officer who was much older than her. She did not get the love she longed for, instead, she faced exploitation and humiliation. She longed for a blissful and compatible life with her husband. For her physical love was a way of gaining spiritual love. She found solace in her writings; sometimes writing about the battered self, her quest for freedom of expression and self-identity. It was actually a journey of self-exploration. All she wanted in her life was love and peace. When she could not change the stance of society towards women including her she made up her mind to change her religion because living in a veil was nothing new to her.*

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