

# THE HOUSE OF MY CHILDHOOD

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DILIP CHITRE

Sub: Ways with Words  
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# DILIP CHITRE

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- One of the foremost Indian poets and critics to emerge in the post Independence India.
- Apart from being a very important bilingual writer, writing in Marathi and English, he was also a teacher, a painter and filmmaker and a magazine editor.
- After spending four years in Ethiopia he went to America. His collected poems were published in the 1990s in three volumes.
- He has also edited An Anthology of Marathi poetry and has prolifically translated prose and poetry. His most famous translation is of the celebrated 17th century Marathi Bhakthi poet Tukaram.

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- . His work “Amkilancelide” was published in 1972, and it was followed by “traveling in cage” in 1980. He traveled widely in Asia, Africa Europe and North America as well as in the interiors of India.
  - He traveled widely in Asia, Africa Europe and North America as well as in the interiors of India. After a long bout with cancer, Dilip Chitre died in Pune on 10 December 2009.
  - Dilip Chitre's poetry has a distinct style and he uses beguilingly simplistic words. His writing is sparse and his imagery immense. Even the titles of his collection fill the mind with pictures.

# SUMMARY

- In the poem The House of My Childhood, the poet Dilip Chitre narrates how the house on the hilltop where he lived during his childhood changed following the demise of his grandmother.
- The house remained empty and forsaken with all the furniture removed. The only things of the past that continued to remain there were the brass statues of her deities and a grinding stone.
- The poet quotes, “The house of my childhood stood empty, On a grey hill ,All its furniture gone” All that remained were a grinding stone and the brass statues of Gods that she worshipped.
- He could not but wonder how the bird cries had stopped. The poet recalled how he used to listen to their chirping as a child when the house was full of life.

- As he continued to look at the house, the poet felt his grandmother's voice coming from the branch of a tree. Although the house was now deserted, the poet could not resist the urge to go around it and explore all the rooms.
- His attachment for the house can be seen by the way he says
- "I toddle around the empty house"

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- Spring and summer are both gone
- Leaving an elderly infant
- To explore the rooms of age"
- This poem describes the emotion and feeling towards the house of the poet where he used to live in his childhood. This poem depicts beautifully how awesome was the house of the poet which was in the hill top, and where poet lives with his grandmother.
- He still reminds the voice his grandmother as well as the voices of birds. But at the end the poet is sorrowfully explains how this house is getting destroyed now, where even the furniture are disappeared now. This poem tells its readers that no matter how old you become you always remembers the things of your childhood.



# THEMES

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- Nostalgic- From the beginning to the end the poet clearly brought the theme of nostalgia. He misses the entire happiness of his childhood. He 'toddles' around the house and remembers the same walk, when played with his fellow- beings. Now the house is empty without any furniture. The shivering voice of his grandmother came from a bare branch, where no birds to sing. Emptiness – The entire house is empty and silent. No living things are present and the house is about to decay. The poet stands alone in front of the grey, colorless house. He toddled around the house but only saw his grandmother's grindstone and brass figurines.



# OLD VERSES MODERN LIFE

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- the poem brought the theme of rural house-hold activities of the olden days. The grindstone shows that they worked hard and loved to make various dishes and snacks for their children and grand children. That's why the grinding stone is common image in the house. But the modern life style had outdated the grindstone so it left there in the deserted house. Spiritual or religious - The brass figurines shows that they worshiped regularly to please their deities. So the deities were kept in their house very preciously. The brass metal gives the idea that they don't want to disfigure it. They are indispensable to spirituality but modern generation is less spiritual. That is why nobody took the brass figurines to their new venue. The passage of time - The poet looks at time as the one who took away all his childhood memories. Even time had taken away the summer and spring with him leaving the elderly infant to toddle around the house to find the lost ages.

