

Write a critical appreciation of the poem 'Caprice'.

Caprice is a very fine love lyric of two stanzas. Composed by Sarojini Naidu popularly known as the 'Bharat Kokila' or 'The Nightingale of India'. Here poetry represents phase of Indo-Anglican romanticism, imbued with idealism. She is a romantic poet not only in her sensibility but also in her art, especially imagery. Next to romanticism lyricism is the most outstanding trait of her poetry.

In this first stanza of the poem, the poetess says that out of caprice the lover holds a wild flower in his fingers. He presses it against his lips reluctantly. He tears up its petals and then ruthlessly throws it away. The flower, which is the poet's heart has no fascination for him. It means his behaviour is a sheer act of his heartlessness.

Again, the lover takes up a cup of wine. Lightly raises it to his indifferently lips. He drinks it out, then, flings away the cup as if for him no longer a thing of joy. Here, the wine cup is the poetess's soul. Hence, this behaviour of the lover is an act of unfeelingness on his part.

This given poem expresses the poet's disappointment in love. Turnbull calls it "a graceful little lyric in which one of the tragedies of love is briefly but adequately expressed under two images". The two images a wild flower and a wine-cup particularly show the impact of Persian poetry. Probably Fitzgerald's Omar Khayyam. Then again this poem is also remarkable for its precision.

Each stanza of the poem has three iambic pentameter lines followed by a trimeter line. The lines are arranged in couplet form monosyllabic words have mostly been used in the poem. The use of soft sound and alliteration has provided the poem a dream like quality.