**Baugmaree by Toru Dutt**

Toru Dutt is one who initiated Indian English poetry and acquires a prominent place in the history of Indian English Literature. She was one who led the way for Indian English Literature. But unfortunately she could not be recognised in her life time. She could not see the fame which she deserved and received after her death. She was acknowledged as an important poet after hundred years of her death. Toru Dutt was born on 4 March, in 1856 Rambagan, Calcutta and dies in 1877. She was a poet, novelist, essayist, translator and polyglot. She was the youngest daughter of Govin Chunder Dutt and Kshetramoni. Her father was a noted linguist and a published poet writing in English while her mother was a cultured and intelligent woman with a literary bent of mind. Toru’s uncles and cousins were also prolific writers of prose and poetry in English. The Dutt Family Album, published in London in 1870 by Govin Chunder Dutt, bears collective evidence of the family’s poetic efforts. In 1862 at the age of six Toru and the Dutts converted to Christianity from Hinduism.

The Family moved to France, where Aru and Toru attended a French school. They studied French and spent time in Paris and Boulogne before moving to England in 1870. Along with their studies of French language and literature, the young girls began to translate French poetry into English. The family spent a year in London, where Aru and Toru studied music and history. In 1871, the Dutts moved to Cambridge where, for the next two years, Aru and Toru attended the **Lectures for Ladies** series set up by liberal educationists like Millicent Garrett Fawcett and Henry Sidgwick. In Cambridge, Toru met Mary E. Martin, with whom she carried on a close friendship, mostly through letters, till her own death.

The only work that was published during Toru’s lifetime was **A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields** (1876). This was a collection of English translations of French poetry that Toru had begun with her elder sister, and was published by the Saptahik Sambad Press in Calcutta

Toru also left her only English novel, **Bianca,** or **The Young Spanish Maiden,** unfinished. Bianca was later published serially in The Bengal Magazine from January to April 1878. Toru’s French novel, **Le Journal de Mademoiselle d’Arvers**, was posthumously published in France in 1879 with an introduction by Clarisse Bader. **Ancient Ballads and Legends of Hindustan**, comprising Toru’s original poems, poetic transcreations and adaptations from Sanskrit literature and Bengali tales, was published posthumously by Messrs Kegan Paul in London in 1882 with an introductory memoir by Edmund Gosse on Toru’s life and works.

**Baugmaree** is a sonnet and is considered as one of her excellent poem. The heading of the poem is very evocative and appropriate reflecting her love for nature and fondness for romantic poetry. The garden, **Baugmaree** was the garden of Dutt family. The poetess has described the scenic beauty of her garden in it.

She lived in Rambagan an area on the outskirts of Calcutta where the garden covers her home. It girds around with its **sea of foliage** of shades, with its vivid splashes of different colours. The sea of foliage isn’t dull as described by Toru. Green colour has different shades which have been very beautifully used by Toru in the poem. There is light green colour of graceful tamarind tree and Mango tree has deep green colour. Palm is also standing; no doubt it is also green in colour. They stand like gray pillars so there’s colour seems dull green. Red color attracts a lot so she has used it like a fascination. There are many seemuls trees in her garden which appears to be red in colour giving a vibrant look. They are almost cotton trees and have maroon flower which look very much red. They are startling like trumpet’s sounds which are leaning over the quite pools. Bamboos are standing to the eastward and look lovelier than others, in moonlight. White lotuses are looking like a cup of silver in the midst of such natural beauty. The poet’s garden is surrounded by number of trees with bright coloured foliage. Every leaves of the tree are bright in colour no dull colour leaves are there. The sound of the military trumpets startles the peace of the pool. There is nothing more beautiful than the ranges of bamboos towards eastward, when the moon looks through the gaps. White lotus changes into cup of silver. One might swoon drunken with the beauty and gaze and gaze on a primeval Eden in amaze.

**One might swoon**

**Drunken with beauty then, or gaze and gaze**

**On a primeval Eden, in amaze**.

Toru calls her garden a primeval Eden to be seen only with amazement because for her it was heaven. The referring of Eden garden shows her deep reading in the Bible and her inclination towards the Christian faith.

This poem reveals Toru’s sensitivity towards nature on a high scale as it colours her soul. It also highlights her love for nature. In describing the garden, she adopts a simple diction and free rhythm. The most beautiful line of the sonnet is:

**Red, red and starling like a trumpet’s sound.**

**But nothing can be lovelier than the ranges.**

**Of Bamboos to the eastward when**.

The poem is in Petrarchan style of sonnet and the rhyme scheme is: abba abba cd cd ee. She has experimented with the form, starting with the Petrarchan octave and ending with Spensarian and Shakespearean sonnet.

The poem is marked by various metaphors and similes. The beginning is remarkable metaphor: A sea of foliage. It is followed by antithesis **but not a sea of dull unvaried green**. **Garden girds around** is a beautiful image. Tamarind trees are called graceful. Palm trees are compared with pillars. The pools are quite. Example of Similes can be stated in the following lines:

**Palms arise like pillars gray**

**Red, red and starling like a trumpet’s sound.**

**Moon looks through gaps.**

**Lotus changes into cup of silver.**

**One becomes beauty drunken as there is primeval Eden garden.**

The main subject of the poem is the poet’s **Baugmaree** or garden. She cannot but help admiring the greenery in her garden.

While the foliage is pictured to be in different shades of green, the tamarind trees appear light green in colour while the mangoes bearing trees have leaves that are a darker green. The palm trees that resemble gray pillars appear dull green.

In contrast to the greenery, there are various seemul trees with bright red flowers and bending over the pool. The moonlight makes the bamboo trees look a lovely sight and the white lotuses look like silver cups.

The natural beauty of the garden is sure to uplift the spirits of a pensive person any time.