

SMALL TOWNS AND THE RIVER

- Small towns always remind me of death. (Abrupt beginning, Pecimistic approach, Death is ultimate difference between urbanized city and Mamangs home town)
 - OR
 - Death is frequent due to political unrest
- My hometown lies calmly amidst the trees, (Personification; Difference between urbanized city and Mamangs community, which exists calm and composed) it is always the same, in summer or winter, with the dust flying, or the wind howling down the gorge. (Remain same in happiness and grief, Unlike urbanized people they don't transformed)
- Just the other day someone died. (Death is very common hence it is just like the other days death due to political clash)

- In the dreadful silence we wept (Hopelessness, 'we' here are tribal community) looking at the sad wreath of tuberose. (Transfer epithet, People were sad for the dead person)
- Life and death, life and death, (Repeated occurrence of death for the clash) only the rituals are permanent. (Nature and rituals are permanent)
- The river has a soul.
In the summer it cuts through the land like a torrent of grief. (Personification, Nature playing a role of man filled with grief like a man but it remains unchanged in every season) Sometimes, sometimes, I think it holds its breath seeking a land of fish and stars (sometimes filled with and suffocation seeking a mythical world where no conflict, violence could be found)
- The river has a soul. (Refrain)
It knows, stretching past the town, from the first drop of rain to dry earth and mist on the mountaintops, the river knows the immortality of water. (Unlike people water is immortal, change its form only. it evaporates, turn into mists and water again. contrast is shown here)

between men and nature).

A shrine of happy pictures

marks the days of childhood. (Nostalgia; Recollection of World

- childhood days, The Golden era)

Small towns grow with anxiety

for the future. (Anxiousness of people pictured here in comparison with golden age)

The dead are placed pointing west. (Ritual)

When the soul rises

it will walk into the golden east, (Heaven)

into the house of the sun.

(It's a belief of the community man goes to heaven after death if his/her head points towards west)

In the cool bamboo,

restored in sunlight,

life matters, like this. (Life is beautiful among nature)

In small towns by the river

we all want to walk with the gods. (We all walk through the path led by GOD)

- **Three themes-1. Neoromantic pictures (imagination, longing for past, rituals, pantheism etc) are found in this poem.**

2.-Glorification of culture.

3. Political and social disturbance between insurgents group and army are represented through the utterance of Mamang Dai.