

### Multiple Meanings of the Poem

The poem is a critique of the 'Big as a Disco seal' (Poem-Daddy) written by Sylvia Plath. The speaker, Sylvia, compares her father to a seal, a prestigious post, and a man who has killed her father so many times over after his death. And this about lines of the poem are seen by her father to her.

### Setting of the Poem

The poem is a collection of sixteen five-line stanzas. It is a brutal and violent poem. It can be commonly understood as the autobiographical poetic sketch of Plath's deceased father, Otto Plath. We found the sense of contradiction in this poem in respect to the rhyme scheme and organization of rhymes. It uses a sort of nursery rhyme, singsong way of speaking. There are hard sounds, short lines, and repeated rhymes as in "through," "do," and "you"). This establishes and reinforces her status as a childish figure in relation to her authoritative father. This relationship is also clear in the name she uses for him - "Daddy" and in her use of "oo" sounds and a childish cadence. However, this childish rhythm also has an ironic sinister feel, since the chant-like, primitive quality can feel almost like a curse.

Sylvia knows that Daddy, her father comes from a Polish town. This Polish town was overrun by only "wars, wars." She says in the poem that one of her Polish friends has told her about this town as there are many towns with the same name. Hence, she cannot expose which is his hometown and where he put his "foot" and "root".

### Relation of a Daughter with Her Father

Even further she discussed on her relationship with father that she could never find a way to talk to her father or talk to her Daddy. This she reflected in her poem as her own experiences, so this poem can be called as an autobiographical poem.

Even before she could speak, she thought every German was same to him. She found the German language as an "obscene." Further, she felt very distinct from him. She believed herself as a Jew being who has been removed to a concentration camp. So she started to talk like a Jew and to feel like a Jew in several different ways. She wonders in fact, whether she might actually be a Jew, because of her similarity to a gypsy. To further emphasize her fear and distance, she describes him as the Luftwaffe, with a neat moustache and a bright blue Aryan eye. She entitled her Daddy as a "Panzer-man." She further says that he is not like God and she does not like her father. The swastika which is symbol of brutal or black deed of Hitler she called it as like the black swastika through which nothing can pass. We can see her own opinion about her Daddy and the behaviour of men towards women as, "Every woman adores a Fascist," and the "boot in the face" that comes with such a man.

### Comparison of Daddy with Several Objects

She always thinks and compares her daddy with standing at the blackboard, whenever she remembers him. He stands instead of a cleft foot with a cleft chin. Here it does not make him a devil but he is like the black man who "Bit [her] pretty red heart in two," though he died when she was of ten years old, she tried to join him in death when she was twenty. She was glued back together, when that attempt failed. Here at this point, she realized her course.

She made a model of Daddy and gave him entitled as both i.e. a "Meinkampf look" and "a love of the rack and the screw." She promises him that she is "finally through," the telephone has been taken off the hook. She further continued that her voices can no longer get through to her.

She becomes so violent about her approach towards her daddy that she considers that if she has killed one man, then she has in fact killed two. She compared her father as a vampire. She remembers how he drank her blood for a year. She realizes the duration which was closer to seven years. She declares in this poem that he can be back now. For her, in his heart, there is a stake. Even she says that due to her father's nature as inhuman, the villagers who reviled him now celebrate his death with dancing on his grave. She concludes the poem by announcing, "Daddy, Daddy, you bastard, I'm through."



### Conclusion

"Daddy" is Sylvia Plath's best-known poem. It has obtained a variety of distinct reactions. If we see it from a feminist approach, it is a critique of male dominance and male's approaches towards women in that period. It is an approach to male domination towards women as to wariness at its reach of Holocaust imagery. It has been reviewed, interpreted, and analyzed by many and hundreds of scholars, and is upheld as one of the best examples of confessional poetry. It is personal, but bit tough to understand. It has a violent imagery, evocation of Jewish suffering, and symbolic nature. It is a journey of coming to terms with her father's experience. We can define this poem as Plath's journey of coming to terms with her father's looming figure in which her father died when she was eight but she throws herself as a victim. She portrayed him in several figures such as a Nazi, vampire, and devil. Further she resurrected figures her husband whom she has also had to kill.

We can conclude it with Plath's words which she explained the poem briefly in a BBC interview in her own words as

The poem is spoken by a girl with an Electra complex. The father died while she thought he was God. Her case is complicated by the fact that her father was also a Nazi and her mother very possibly part Jewish. In the daughter the two strains marry and paralyze each other—she has to act out the awful little allegory once over before she is free of it." This all reveals that the poem Daddy is her own autobiography in which she explained her experiences, behaviour and approach that she had from her Father- a representative as a worst male dominating behaviour and approaches towards women in European Country.

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