

Title	: <i>OUR CASUARINA TREE</i>
Author	: Toru Dutt (1856–1877) was a gifted Indian poet who wrote in English and French. Despite her short life, she left behind immortal works that blend Indian themes with Western forms.
Theme	: The poem celebrates the beauty of the Casuarina tree , but more importantly, it reflects nostalgic childhood memories, love for lost siblings, and the power of nature to communicate with human beings . The poet immortalizes the tree through her verse, showing how memory and love can preserve it forever.

Paragraph

The poem begins with a striking image of the creeper around the tree, “*Like a huge Python, winding round and round / The rugged trunk, indented deep with scars.*” Though tightly bound, the tree stands like a brave giant, wearing the creeper like a scarf of crimson flowers. The garden around it is full of life—bees and birds in the day, and at night “*one sweet song that seems to have no close.*” From her **casement window**, the poet delights in morning scenes: a gray baboon sitting “*statue-like alone*” on the top, its young ones playing, kokilas singing, sleepy cows moving to pasture, and water-lilies “*springing, like snow enmassed.*” Yet, the tree is not dear to her only for its magnificence. Beneath its shade she once played with her beloved siblings, and so the tree is forever tied to her heart. She recalls these memories with tears, saying, “*Blent with your images, it shall arise / In memory, till the hot tears blind mine eyes!*” For Toru Dutt, nature also speaks: the tree’s murmur is like “*a dirge-like murmur, an eerie speech.*” Even when she was far away in Europe, she felt connected to her homeland, because in her vision, the tree always rose before her. The poet now wishes to consecrate the tree to the memory of her loved ones “*who now in blessed sleep for aye repose.*” She hopes the tree will be remembered forever, like the yew trees of Borrowdale sanctified by Wordsworth. With humility, she says her verse may be weak, but prays, “*May Love defend thee from oblivion’s curse.*”

Conclusion

Thus, *Our Casuarina Tree* is both a nature poem and a personal elegy. It answers the textbook’s key ideas: the creeper is compared to a python, the kokila sings in the garden, the baboon sits like a statue, and the tree is special for **nostalgic childhood memories**. Toru Dutt immortalizes the tree with her love, showing us that **memory and poetry can conquer time and death**.