**SONS MUST DIE**

**BY**

**UMA PARAMESWARAN**

**About the dramatist**

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| **Uma Parameswaran** | |
| **Born** | 1938 (age 84–85) [Madras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madras), India |
| **Occupation** | Professor, writer, editor |
| **Education** | [Jabalpur University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabalpur_University) (B.A.) [Nagpur University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagpur_University) (M.A.) [Indiana University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indiana_University) (M.A.) |
| **Alma mater** | [Michigan State University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michigan_State_University) (Ph.D.) |
| **Literary movement** | South Asian Canadian Literature |

**Uma Parameswaran**  is an [Indo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_people)-[Canadian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian) writer, scholar, and literary critic. Her writing includes works of fiction and poetry, as well as plays and nonfiction. She is a retired professor of English at the [University of Winnipeg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Winnipeg).

## Early life and Education

Parameswaran was born in 1938 in [Madras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Madras),India. She was raised in a [Tamil](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tamils) home in [Jabalpur](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabalpur).She completed her B.A. at [Jabalpur University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jabalpur_University) and a masters degree in journalism at [Nagpur University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nagpur_University).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uma_Parameswaran#cite_note-2007_Gale_profile-1) With a [Fulbright](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fulbright_Program) grant, she completed a masters degree in creative writing at [Indiana University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indiana_University).In 1972, she completed a doctorate in English at [Michigan State University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michigan_State_University).[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uma_Parameswaran#cite_note-2007_Gale_profile-1)[[4]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uma_Parameswaran#cite_note-Thomas_2009-4)

## Career

**Parameswaran** has written fiction, poetry, drama and literary criticism.Her poetry includes the 1973 collection *Cyclic Hope, Cyclic Pain*, published by the [Writers Workshop](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writers_Workshop) in Calcutta, the 1988 collection *Trishanku*, and the 2002 collection *Sisters at the Well*.

She wrote the play *Sons Must Die* in 1962, and her other plays include *Meera* (1971), *Sita's Promise* (1981), *Rootless but Green are the Boulevard Trees* (1987) and *Dear Deedi, My Sister* (1989), which were collected in *Sons Must Die and Other Plays* in 1998 as part of the South Asian Canadian Literature Series (SACLIT) that Parameswaran created and edited.

## Honors and awards

* 2000 Canadian Authors' Association Jubilee Award for short fiction- (*What Was Always Hers*)
* 2010 nomination for Canadian Book of the Year award- (*A Cycle of the Moon*)

## Personal life

**Parameswaran** moved to [Winnipeg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Winnipeg) in 1966, after she married.She has one daughter. Parameswaran is related to both CV Raman and [Subramaniam Chandrasekhar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subramaniam_Chandrasekhar).

**About the drama ‘SONS MUST DIE’**

**SUMMARY & CHARACTERS**

* **Summary:**  Uma Parameshwaran was greatly influenced by Greek tragedies, which contained a chorus and stylized version of the text. *'Sons must die' is the story of three women at the time of the independence of India in 1947.* The three women had witnessed the bloodshed in Kashmir. The maternal sensibility of the ladies surpasses the political boundaries and acknowledges what Wilfred Owen calls 'Pity of War'.
* **Characters:** *The three ladies were the main characters of the play.*

**OUT LINE OF DRAMA**

* *Sons Must Die*is set against the backdrop of Kashmir, and India – Pakistan war of 1947 – 48. The author tries to reflect on the problem of war in/ for Kashmir through three women, each coming from different parts of the country, all unfamiliar with the geographical and political realities of Kashmir. They see the real bloodshed of men. Their maternal sensibilities transcend political boundaries and see only what Wilfred Owen calls the “pity of war.” Besides, Uma Parameswaran portrays different cultures of India through these women.
* The first of them is *Meenakshi,* *a Tamil Brahmin,* wearing conjeevaran silk.
* The second one is *Zohra Begum, a Muslim mother* dressed in a salwar – kameez suit with gold embroidery on the blue valet.
* The third one is *Prem Behn, a Punjabi mother.*

* The play begins with the chorus of old men dressed in old Kashmiri dresses praising the beauty of Kashmir in 1948 A.D. The beauty and richness of Kashmir are the reason for conflict/ war: