

THE UNREVEALED EPIC OF CASTE, JAMBAVATHA

Gaddam Venkanna

Assistant Professor, Department of Folk Arts, Telugu University, Hyderabad, India

ABSTRACT

Most of the countries in the world can stand with one major language and one or two minor languages, one caste, one religion and similarity in geography. In the built of the nation along with major literatures, languages, cultures and traditions the minor too play an indelible role so it could not be ignored. In India folk will play a remarkable role along with the traditional cultures. It is the base to culture and tradition and it is a source to know the origin of the castes system in our country. This paper is made an effort to know a few things about origin of caste in traditional country, India.

KEYWORDS: Literature, Language, Culture, Tradition, Caste, Tradition

Article History

Received: 02 Aug 2021 / **Revised:** 07 Aug 2021 / **Accepted:** 11 Aug 2021

INTRODUCTION

Folk plays are the bases to the construction of the nation. These are the art forms which exhibits the nation's glory, and culture as a true figure. Such is the uniqueness and the peculiarity of the folk plays. The main and major feature of the folk play is to entertain and amuses the audience with its music, dance, costume and conversation.

Jambavatha is the devine king of bears. He is created by the god Brhma to assist Rama in his struggle against the king of Lanka Ravana. Jambavatha is an Asian black bear in Indian epic tradition. He is described as one of the monkey in some of the other scriptures. He was present at the churning of the ocean and supposed to have circled Vamana seven times when he was acquiring the three worlds from Mahabali. Along with Hanuma and Parashurama he is also considered to be one of the few to present for both Rama and Krishna avatars. His daughter, Jambavathi was married by lord Krishna. He is Chiranjeevi, the longest lived one and who witnessed nine avathars.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this research paper is to bring out the importance of the folk literature along with daliths who has been nurturing it on their shoulders ages together.

METHODOLOGY

The data has collected from the folk plays which are presented at countryside by folk artists and direct field visits and interviewing the artists.

India is built on castes system. We cannot say openly that our life is depending on but it is the ultimate fact that everyone has to accept. The folks have adopted it. Folk is the biggest wealth to the rural and country life. It is transferring

from one generation to the next for generations together. It doesn't have a particular shape to define but it is an integral part of tradition and culture.

Folk is the part of folk literature. There are diversified exhibiting forms along with variety of art forms. These are the bases to the profession of several castes in our country. For example, the folk artists, who are presenting the epic of the caste? They have chosen sacrifice to serve the art. The performers of the epic of the caste have a variety of method to stage the caste epic to entertain their dependent caste.

The caste epic present artists are Pinjaras, Pchchukakuntla, Maashthi, Kinnera, Bhaats, Dandi, Thoti, Pardhan, and Pattedas amuse the audience with their performance on the base of Singing Story Telling method where as Kaki Padigela, Enooti, Goudajetti, Gurrapu, Korrajula, Poojari, Addapu, Koonapuli, Masaiahs, Dakkali, Kommu, Theljuru, and Pandavulas narrate the caste epic in textual tradition and Chindus in the form of plays, and Nulukachandaihs in narrative form. These are the artists depends on different castes.

The epic of Jambavatha is the unprecedented one in oral folk literature. The exhibiting manner of it is also unique. This is the play staged by some of the sub-castes of Scheduled Castes. These are the dependents on this caste. They chose it as profession and and sacrifice. They are nurturing this art ages together, and it is passing to the next generation as hereditary right. They are the protectors of Dalit tradition. They believe art is their livelihood, and turned as the path finder's to the next generation.

Now they are the connecting links between the past and the present and as well as the old and the new. Some of them present the epic of Jambavatha which is confined to Scheduled Caste but it has the secrets of the universe origin, and the origin of Gods. It is the epic which gives the picture of the birth of all the castes along with SC and its construction and the purpose of the caste. In one word it the epic narrates the birth of caste, and the instruments related with caste. There is an essence to study it in depth to know about all these things very clearly.

CONCLUSIONS

Jambavatha epic has the belief system of the folks. This is the epic reveals the caste system and its birth. It reveals the secrets among the different stages of different epics and yugas. The artist who stages its number is decreasing day by day. There is an essence to protect the artist who performs it since its oral tradition, and stage it out of one community to spread the message of caste and its essence which is completely changed in the modern world.

REFERENCES

1. Patricia Turner, Charles Russell Coulter. *Dictionary of ancient deities*. 2001, page 248
2. "Jambavan: The only one who saw Lord Rama and Krishna".
3. Magnotti, Angela; rews. "Jambavan Fights Krishna (Syamantaka Mani Legend, Part 5)".
4. Mani, Vettam (1 January 2015). *Puranic Encyclopedia: A Comprehensive Work with Special Reference to the Epic and Puranic Literature*. Motilal Banarsidass. ISBN 978-81-208-0597-2.
5. Mani, Vettam (1 January 2015). *Puranic Encyclopedia: A Comprehensive Work with Special Reference to the Epic and Puranic Literature*. Motilal Banarsidass. ISBN 978-81-208-0597-2.