

EXPLORING THE MULTIPLE FACETS OF POLYANDROUS MARRIAGE OF DRAUPADI IN THE PALACE OF ILLUSIONS

Simran Agarwal

Research Scholar, Kanoria PG Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Affiliated Rajasthan University, Jaipur, 302004, India

ABSTRACT

Published in 2008 by Picador, The Palace of Illusions is a novel by award-winning novelist and poet, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni. It is a critically acclaimed text, as it gives an intriguing insight to the feminine side of the otherwise patriarch tale. While majority of the authors try to focus on the warfare and philosophy of the epic, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni highlights the inner recesses of the mind of Draupadi. She narrates the story as seen from the eyes of Draupadi, retelling her joys, her desires, her adventures and her struggle through the voice of Panchaali.

Though Draupadi is an iconoclastic mythical figure, for her fiery female voice; her marriage to five of the famously heroic Pandava brothers, plays a crucial role in her life. In times, where Polygamy was quite a common phenomenon, Polyandry was limited to folklores and stories. To marry five men, was an alien concept and was regarded with contempt in those times. The rules were different for men and women, favoring the men, while restricting a woman to sleep with a single man only.

Polygamy is defined as state or practice of having more than one husband or male mate at one time. This paper analyses the Polyandry of Draupadi, her emotions towards her own marriage and her relationship with her husband's. It also highlights the reliability of the marriage, its formation and its characteristics. Thus, we will be analyzing the efficiency and nature of Polyandry in the story, through the exploration of emotions of Draupadi and her relationship with the five Pandavas.

KEYWORDS: *Polyandry, Patriarchy, Marriage, Exploration*

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