



**TROPE OF SACRIFICE : A STUDY OF GIRISH KARNAD'S
FIRE AND THE RAIN**



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ABSTRACT

In this paper I will be discussing about the recurring idea of sacrifice in the play Fire and the Rain. The play was written by Girish Karnad published in 1998. This play tells the myth of Yavakri taken from chapters 135-8 of the "Vana Parva (Forest Canto) of the Mahabharata. This story is narrated by Lomasha to the Pandavas in the time of their exile. The play definitely portrays the conflict between good and evil.

I will be dealing with the various forms of sacrifice seen in the play. Fire and the Rain is one such play where the idea of sacrifice is recurrent. The play begins with fire sacrifice and ends with the self sacrifice of Arvasu. The reference of human sacrifice is also seen in the play. At the end of the play we learn the true meaning of sacrifice. The plot of the play is totally influenced by the fire sacrifice. So, fire sacrifice is in the mind of every character in the play. The tension is

created by the fire sacrifice. It is resolved by the sacrifice of Arvasu. Sacrifice is probably a invisible character in the play.

Here I will be dealing with the psychology behind organizing a sacrifice. The reasons of its failure will be discussed also. I will also discuss how Nittilai and Arvasu become the symbol of true sacrifice. The play is all about the sacrifices.

This is a qualitative research. I have taken the helps of essays, articles and books in writing this paper. And I learn that sacrifice plays an important role in preserving humanity. It purifies people. It helps to maintain peace in the society. It teaches the biggest lesson that sometimes we have to be steady and give up things we want the most even our dreams, love for the sake of humanity.

KEYWORDS

Sacrifice, Fire, Rain, Vedic, myth, Hinduism