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Toru Dutt's Great Work *Lakshman* : A Thematic and Literary Interpretation



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Abstract

The great poetic creation which Toru Dutt has given to the world is Lakshman. This poem is based on the story of 'Panchvati in the Ramayan. In the Ramayan, Lord Rama, along with wife and brother went to forest namely Panchvati where they made a cottage in the lap of nature. It happens that one day 'Marich' took the form of a golden deer and began to graze grass near the cottage. Its beauty was so charming that it attracted the attention of Sita. Thereafter Sita requested Rama to kill this golden deer. Rama flew to catch the deer.

In the meantime, Rama killed the deer with his arrow and consequently the deer became a giant and made a huge cry calling the name of Sita and Lakshman. Sita heard the cry and asked Lakshman to go near her husband immediately. There starts a dialogue between Sita and Lakshman that forms part of the nucleus of this poem.

Keywords

Lakshman, Ramayan, Aranyakand, Poetry, Metaphor, Rootedness, Indianess, East-West Encounter, Memory, Savitri.