

# Raja Rao: In Search of Myth and Feminism: A Study of His Selected Works.

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**Abstract:** This analysis examines myth and feminism in the selected works of Raja Rao. Emphasis is laid on to study women characters to a larger in the fold of tradition in life. The objectives of this analysis is to study myth and feminism in detail.

**Methods:** This analysis of myth and feminism related to the treatment of women in Indo-Anglian writers who presented the traditional Sita type. The passive role of Sita in the **Ramayana** and the active role of Draupadi in the **Mahabharata** have proved to be perennially attractive in the emerging values of East-West encounter.

**Findings:** All Indo-Anglian writers have depicted a wide variety of woman in their works – woman as mother and protector, inspirer and cherisher, motivating force, protecting good and destroying evil, chaste, suffering wife, woman as the charmer or some of the facets common in Indo-Anglian fiction.

**Applications:** The method of teaching novels and short stories could be used to develop communication skills among engineering students where English is taught as a second language in all Educational institutions and the use of innovative methods and its relevance which was also useful to non-native language learners and speakers of English.

**Keywords:** In search of, myth, feminism, selected works, woman as mother, protector, inspirer, cherisher, motivating force, protecting good and destroying evil, chaste, suffering wife, charmer or lurer, examined.

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## I. Introduction

Raja Rao considers woman as Shakti and Mother-Earth. There are a number of woman characters by Raja Rao and each one of them expresses one aspect or another. Saroja, Savithri, Madeleine and the Little Mother in **The Serpent and the Rope**; Rangamma, Ratna, Narasamma, Waterfall Venkamma in **Kantapura**; **Javani**, **Akkayya** and **Nimka** in **The Policeman and the Rose** (Collection of Short Stories) are one and the same the incarnation of women by Raja Rao.

### In search of Myth and Feminism in the selected works of Raja Rao

Myth is a form of a story which examines the early beliefs of primitive human race. Enthuses is laid on to study the famous myth and legend related to persons and things which would be imaginary fictitious and inventory in human life. Further it examines mythical heroes and literature in detail. The study of myth and feminism is a type of criticism which claims the rights of woman in social, political and legal life. Raja Rao examines the importance of myth and feminism in **Kanthapura**, **The Serpent and the Rope**, **The Chess Master and His Moves** and the selected short stories of **Nimka**, **Akkayya** and **Javani** in **The Policeman and the Rose**. The study of myth and feminism is important in literature in which Raja Rao gave importance to the genre for the study of his selected works in detail.

### Nature and Creation of Woman

A woman is not a simple but a complex creature. Since the creation of a truth, “A woman who is an instrument of creation herself, and the truth.” [1] A woman bear the burden of man in life. “One woman, one form, one sound, one love,” [2] is the principle which one must need to follow. The women are intimate with one another in the things of the body. It is not so with men who are strangers to one another. “A woman’s home of her paradise of her choice and pattern.” [3]

### The Hindu Concept of Woman

The Hindu concept of a woman is full of sanctity. A woman who is not your wife or your concubine must be your sister and you feel the responsibility of a brother to every woman. “The tying of a rakhi by a girl around the wrist of a man is symbolic of this sacred bond. For a woman, pain and continuance be one, and for man death and joy is one. And this is the mystery of creation.” [4] In spite of all his mysticism about women, Raja

Rao's women characters are all tradition-bound. Even those characters that violate tradition do so only one trivial matter but essentially remain in the fold of tradition.

#### In search of Myth and Feminism in **Kanthapura**

Women in the Gandhian era are shown vividly in **Kanthapura**. We have a true picture of women living in the village. These women shed their age-old taboos of caste. They educate themselves, give speeches and face lathe charges. For them, it is a great leap from the past to the present. Awakening comes to women through religious stories. They hear Harikathas. Raja Rao sees women as Shakti. Shakti worship runs throughout his novels. Shakti rises in every woman at certain pivotal points of her life. Different forms of Shakti are manifested in the women of Kanthapura. Shakti's indomitable spirit possesses them in their Satyagraha procession against the British Raj. Inspired by Gandhi they become the very incarnation of Shakti, and they sing. "There's one Government, sister, and there's the government of Mahatma." [5] Reading the book, **Kanthapura**, might awaken one politically. It sounds more like a "Historical document [6]". Raja Rao's intentions were not merely political, nor was it just historical. Behind the historical politics, there is a history of women who were suppressed and denied all "Intellectual freedom." [6] Fighting as they were for political freedom, these women also fighting for "Historical justice." [6] They wanted to share life in terms of dignity and understanding were over-writing to sacrifice of their need be. Raja Rao weaves all these ideas into this book **Kanthapura** in beautiful and remarkable prose style.

#### In search of Myth and Feminism in **The Serpent and the Rope**

"The world is either unreal or real" [7] noted Raja Rao. "A serpent could be mistaken for a rope and a rope for a serpent. [7] This seemingly antithetical difference between 'Appearance' and 'Reality' forms the core of the novel. This mistaken identity does not affect us much. But Raja Rao does not stop at this just mistaken identity alone, probes deep into the 'Maya and Absolute'. The serpent stands for appearance, illusion, unreality or Maya, and the rope for the Reality, 'truth and Absolute'. This world is Maya to many. It is merely a 'serpent' but we in our ignorance take it to be a rope. From this illusion or ignorance, we could be saved only by the Guru. It is the Guru alone who could dispel all illusions, clear away the darkness of ignorance and make us realize the truth. "So far as the novel **The Serpent and the Rope** is concerned, Rama [Ramasamy] is the reality, the rest is the illusion, we may go further even and say the Raja Rao is the reality, and Rama [Ramasamy and Madeline and Savithri... are all but the serpent, the glamour of the novelist Maya." [7] Raja Rao bases his analysis on well-formed philosophic ideas founded in ancient Hindu philosophical of Sankaracharya to give an artistic expression to inner conflicts and seemingly storming contradiction of this Hindu philosophy embarks on a novelistic quest. The theme of the book **The Serpent and the Rope** are "Illusion and Reality." [8] Raja Rao deals with the concept of womanhood to estimate the degree of success and achieves in the delineation of his woman characters as individuals rather than types. In his portrayal of Little Mother, Saroja, and Savithri, Raja Rao uses the traditional conception of Indian womanhood. Raja Rao was an Indian writer of English novels and short stories, whose works are deeply rooted in 'Metaphysics'. **The Serpent and Rope** a semi-auto biographical novel recounting a search for spiritual truth in Europe and India.

#### In search of Myth and Feminism in **The Chess Master and His Moves**

**The Chess Master and His Moves** is a pivotal story delineate the impossible love between Sivarama Sastri, an Indian mathematician who works in Paris and his relationship with the married woman's life, ends in sorrow and despair. The protagonists turn inward in this search transforming the chess master and his moves into a metaphysical exploration.

#### In search of Myth and Feminism in **Selected Short Stories of Javani, Akkyya, and Nimka**

Raja Rao's selected short stories **Javani, Akkyya** and **Nimka** are taken from **The Policeman and the Rose** who examines the various types of women, their joys and sorrows, trials and tribulations of womanhood. The author creates his women characters with great care and precision. Women are not free the bonds of tradition. It has been rooted in the countries institutions, values, altitudes and its goals. All women characters brought name and fame to the author and dedicated their lives to the society.

## II. Conclusion

The study of selected works of fiction and short stores of Raja Rao helps the students of Engineering to learn and improve communications skills. Students improve not only reading and writing skills but also spoken ability. This self-examination of analysing the selected works of Raja Rao helps the students to know more about Indian literature in the form of fiction and short stores. Briefly, the students develop not only their all-round development of language skills but also Indian culture and tradition which is absorbing and interesting to create knowledge.

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