


05 Jun 2020

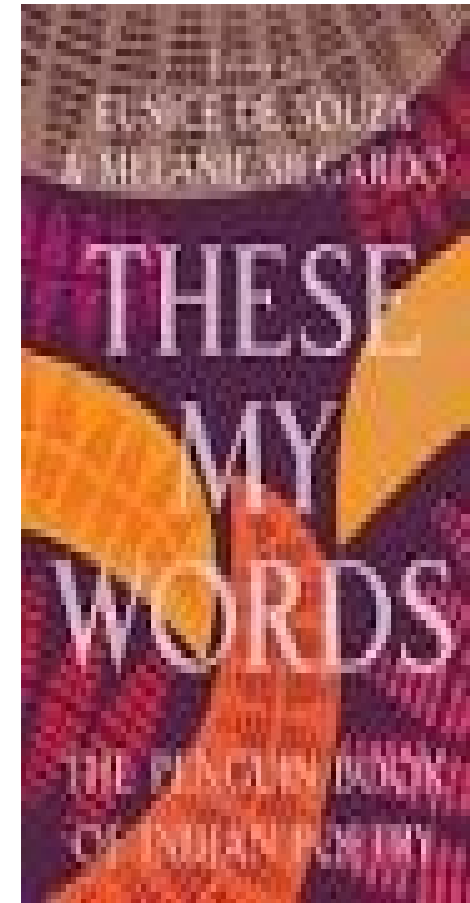
DRAUPATI

by

Supata Bhattacharya

Supata Bhattacharya(1929-2012)

- Bengali poet
- Her poems speak of the life & experiences of women and seek to redress the injustices of the past and present
- Anthology in which this poem appeared 



Draupati

- a retelling of the final parva of Mahabharatha
- Have you read any other retelling of Mahabharatha ?
- Name of the final chapter/parva of Mahabharata?
- What happens in the final parva?

Draupati

- ***Svargarohana Parva*** or the ***Book of the Ascent to Heaven***, is the last of 18 books of the Indian epic Mahabharata.
- Svargarohana Parva describes the arrival of [Yudhishtira](#) in heaven, his visit to hell and what he finds in both places

Draupati

- At the end of **Mausala Parva (16th Chapter)**, Vyasa advises Arjuna and his brothers to retire and renounce their kingdom as the purpose of their life has been served. Arjuna informs Yudhishtira of Vyasa's advise. Draupadi and his brothers agree.

Draupati

- Mahaprasthanika Parva (17th chapter) recites the journey of the Pandavas across India and finally their ascent towards Himalayas, as they climb their way to heaven on Mount Sumeru. On their way, Draupadi falls and dies first.
- Bhima asks Yudhishtira why Draupadi died early and couldn't continue the journey to heaven. Yudhishtira claims that though they all were equal unto her she had great partiality for Arjuna, so she obtained the fruit of that conduct today.

Love was the single fault therefore I fell first of all!

- Mahabharata mentions that Draupati was the first one to fall in their ascend to heaven because she was weak.
- Her weakness is her love for Arjuna.
- Is this a fair judgement or opinion?
- Was it fair that she, who was married to Arjuna was forced to be the wife of all 5 pandavas?

**I spend five nights in five rooms
all of them demanded my labour, services, body
not my love.**

- The question of choice
- When Kunti said “share the alms equally“ , was Draupati given a choice?
- Polyandry(= a woman having more than one husband) **was** forced upon her?

**I spend five nights in five rooms
all of them demanded my labour, services, body
not my love.**

- She is regarded as an instrument of pleasure
- She is used for domestic services and material pleasures
- She is looked upon as a body not as an individual
- Five nights in five rooms refers to the arrangement made(1 year with each)
- But her emotional needs are ignored

- Class Work : 05 Jun 2020

Find the meaning of the words: polygamy,
polygyny, polyandry