

Raghupati, the conspirator in the play 'Sacrifice'

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ABSTRACT

Raghupati is the priest of kali temple in Tripura. He is devotee of Goddess kali. He believes in making sacrifice to kali. Govinda, the king of Tripura has no child from wife Gunavati. She goes to kali temple to pray goddess kali for a child. Raghupati suggests her for animal sacrifice. The king has already given an order to stop animal sacrifice when Aparna a beggar girl tells king about the sacrifice of her goat. The king sends back the queen's animals from the temple. The queen requests to allow animal sacrifice. The king does not hear her. Raghupati tells the Queen that the pride of king will bring bad luck to him. His throne will burst like a bubble. Raghupati is a very shrewd man. He tries to incite Nayan Rai against the king. Nayan Rai refuses to do so. He even incites Jaisingh, prince Nakshatra to kill the king. It shows his revengeful and conspiring nature.

Rabindranath Tagore has been known one of the greatest literary man of the world. He had the rare qualities of a poet, a dramatist, a novelist, a philosopher, a musician, and a painter. He wrote a number of plays, poems, novels and short stories.

His well known works are as under:-

- 1) Plays: Sacrifice, Sanyasi, Post office, Bachelor club, chitra, and Mukta Dhara
- 2) Novels:- Gora, wreck, chocker Bali, The Home and the world
- 3) Poems:- Gitanjali, The crescent Moon, Gardener and Manasi Sonar Tari
- 4) Short Stories:- The Hunary Stones and other stories, Mathi and other stories, Broken ties and other stories.

I chose the play 'Sacrifice' for my research paper. There is a character namely Raghupati the priest of kali Temple in the kingdom of king Govind. The story begins with Aparna a beggar girl whose goat has been taken away for sacrifice in kali temple. Aparna loves her goat very much. So she goes to temple where she met king Govind. She wants her goat back. The king orders to stop animal sacrifice in kali Temple. Gunavati is king Govind's wife. She has no child. She prays Goddess Kali for a child. Raghupati, the priest of kali Temple suggests her for animal sacrifice. Queen Gunavati arranges for three Hundred kids and one hundred buffaloes for sacrifice. The Queen's animals have been stopped at the gate. It makes angry to the Queen and Raghupati. The Queen requests her husband to allow her for animal sacrifice. The king says that It is Goddess Kali's order to stop animal sacrifice. The Queen opposes him.

Now the role of priest Raghupati as a conspirator begins. Raghupati is a very clever man. The king Govind stopped animal sacrifice. It makes the priest angry. Now he plans to take his revenge upon the king. He tries to win over the queen by his cleverness. He says to the queen that the king has disobeyed the order of Goddess kali. It will bring bad luck to the king. His Kingdom will destroy like a bubble. The Queen requests to the priest for mercy. Raghupati takes an advantage of her mild nature. The Queen is moved by Raghupati's actions and promises him for animal sacrifice. The

Queen requests her husband Govind to withdraw his orders of animal sacrifice and rights of priests. He rejects her request. The king says that Gods do not want blood so the brahmins have no right to kill animals. "Truth and justice must be maintained" The Queen finds herself helpless. Raghupati now invites Nayan Rai against the king. He says to Nayan Rai. Your devotion to kali is well known. You should kill kali's enemy king Govind. Nayan Rai can not do this. He says that he believes in faith and truth. He can not leave it.

Raghupati even advises Nakshatra to kill the king. Prince Nakshatra is the brother of king Govind. Raghupati calls him in the temple. He says to him that he can become king within a week. Goddess Kali told him in the dream. He does not believe him. Raghupati says that Goddess Kali is thirsty for the king's blood. Kill him and offer his blood to kali. By doing so you can become king. If you do not do so, you will die." When he hears these words, he becomes very much afraid. When Nakshatra brings Druva to kali's temple. He keeps the boy in a room. The boy wept for a long time in the room. Then he went to sleep. Nakshatra tells all these things to Raghupati. Nakshatra says to Raghupati "Kill him, While he is sleeping." But Raghupati is not in hurry. He says to Nakshatra, "Do not afraid. Have faith in kali. Druva can not escape. He will certainly be killed." Raghupati is so revengeful that he even incites Jaisingh his disciple who hears the conversation between Raghupati and Nakshatra to kill the king. It shocks Jaisingh. He says to Raghupati, "Master you ask brother to kill brother. Is it not a sin ? Raghupati says to Jaisingh" Sin has no meaning in reality. To kill is only to kill. It is not sin. Numberless persons have been killed in this World. Killing has always been going on in the world. It is found in forests, birds, and insects. It is also found in the sea and the sky. Goddess kali is thirsty for blood, She has a cup in her hands. It is filled with blood. She drinks it. So killing goes on in the world. Goddess kali wants the king's blood. Jaisingh believes that he should not disbelieve his master. He fully believes his master Raghupati. He promises to kill the king. By doing so, he will bring the king's blood to kali.

Thus Raghupati is a conspirator and avenger throughout the play. When Raghupati and Nakshatra are arrested for the

crime of enacting a conspiracy of killing Druva and banished for eight years. Raghupati finds himself helpless. He can do nothing against the King's order. He has yet to offer the King's blood to Kali. So he decides to get a day's time from the King.

He becomes very polite. He calls Govinda, the King of all Kings. He sits on his knees. He requests king to grant him one day's time in order to offer his blood to Kali.

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