



Sita and Draupadi: A Comparative Analysis of Two Epic Heroines

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Abstract

The Ramayana and The Mahabharata is the most important Epics in Hinduism. In these two epics, everybody talks about Rama and Pandavas. But this paper proposed and give much attention towards the heroines of these two epics, Sita and Draupadi. Sita and Draupadi was not born normally, the similarities of their struggles and their marriage life, and how they shine in their life.

Keywords: banishment, exile, epic.

Introduction

The Ramayana is one of the two major epics in Hinduism. It was first written in Sanskrit and dates to approximately the 5th-to-4th century B.C. It depicts the duties of relationships and consists of 24,000 verses. The Ramayana and The Mahabharata was written by Valmiki and Vyasa respectively. These two Indian epics are the most important Indian epics. In Ramayana, it highlights the life of Rama, and it expresses the moral ethics, sacrifice, patience and his intellectual. Likewise, Sita symbolizes calm, polite

and purity. In Mahabharata, Vyasa highlights the power of Pandavas and Kauravas. Both Valmiki and Vyasa portrayed the powerful women characters, Sita and Draupadi.

Birth of Sita and Draupadi

Sita, the main female character in Valmiki's Ramayana, is believed to have a special and divine birth. The story says that King Janaka of Mithila found her while he was plowing the land as part of a holy ritual. Sita came out of the ground, so she is



considered the daughter of Mother Earth, or Bhumi Devi. Because of this, she is also called Bhumija and Ayonija, which means she was not born from a mother's womb. Sita's birth from the Earth shows her purity, strength, and deep connection with nature. Her coming from the Earth represents qualities like fertility, patience, endurance, and strong morals characteristics that are shown throughout the Ramayana. Her life is an example of doing what is right, making sacrifices, and staying true to her values, which match her holy beginning. At the end of her life, when Sita chooses to return to the Earth, it confirms her divine origin once more. This return shows that her life on Earth has been fulfilled and highlights her role as a symbol of powerful, righteous womanhood in Indian stories.

Draupadi, a major female character in the Mahabharata written by Vyasa, is thought to have a divine and supernatural beginning. She was born from a sacred fire, or yajna, that King Drupada of Panchala performed in order to get revenge against his enemy Drona. Draupadi came out of the fire fully grown, shining and strong, which is why she is called Yajnaseni, meaning she was born from the altar of sacrifice, and Ayonija, meaning she was not born from a mother's womb. Her birth from fire shows she has energy, bravery, purity, and righteous anger. Unlike regular births, Draupadi's fiery origin shows she was meant to fight against unfairness and play a big part in defeating evil and bringing back dharma. It was said she would be the reason the Kauravas fell. Draupadi's divine birth makes her a key person in changing the story of the Mahabharata. Her suffering in the royal court and her strong fight for justice set off the war at Kurukshetra. So, her birth from fire shows she is a powerful symbol of divine justice and moral courage in the Indian epic tradition.

Struggles faced by Sita and Draupadi

Sita's life in the Ramayana is filled with a lot of pain and tough challenges that test her strength, patience, and goodness. When Rama is sent away from the kingdom for fourteen years, Sita chooses to leave behind her comfortable life and follow him into the

forest. Life there is hard, full of unknown dangers, and she faces all of them with courage and love.

One of the biggest challenges she goes through is when Ravana, the ruler of Lanka, takes her away. Without Rama by her side, she spends a long time in a place called Ashoka Vatika, where she is treated badly and even tempted, but she stays strong and true to her heart. Her ability to keep her values during this time shows how strong and faithful she is. After she is saved, Sita has to go through a special test called the Agnipariksha, which means being tested by fire. It is a very shameful experience, but she goes through it to show she is honest and has not lost her virtue. She comes out of the fire without any harm, and this proves that she is pure. All these difficult experiences show that Sita is not weak. Instead, she is a woman with great courage and strength, and her quiet endurance shows how much she stands for right and good.

Draupadi is the daughter of the King Paanchal. She is born from Fire. In her childhood, She is very eager to learn political matters. But her father does not allow her to learn, instead of sixty- four arts. Panchaali (daughter of Panchal) cannot concentrate on this. King Panchaal prepared for Swayamvara, for Draupadi. From various Kings and Princess came into Swayamvara, she likes to marry Karna. But her father Panchaal and brother, Dhristadhyumna never accept to marry Karna. They forced to marry Arjun. Then her mother-in-law's instructs to marry all the five Pandavas respectively.

Kauravas invite Pandavas and Panchaali for dinner. In that they start playing Dice gambling. Sakuni helps Kauravas, indirectly Sakuni wants to punish Kauravas. Pandavas lost their crown, jewels and finally Draupadi. Here, Draupadi ask who gave permission to keep her like other things. Duryodhan unwrapped her saree and lord Krishna helps her to protect her from shame in front of other men. From this incident, she does not plaited her hair.

Pandavas banished to the forest for fourteen years. Forest gave them food, and shelter. Pandavas starts Kurukshetra War to take revenge. In the war, so many becomes orphans, beggars, and widows. Draupadi plans to stop the war, but it is not to stop.



Draupadi symbolizes energy, courage, purity, and righteous anger.

Conclusion

The stories of Sita and Draupadi remain important in today's world because they show deep ideas about right and wrong, fairness, how people are treated, and how humans can stay strong. Sita's story shows being patient, having strong values, and staying true to oneself. In a world that moves quickly and sometimes has confusing rules, her story helps people, especially women, to keep their sense of respect, believe in what is right, and stay strong when facing difficulties and pressure from society. Both Sita and Draupadi show that being strong can be done in different ways by quietly standing up or by taking brave steps. Their lives continue to inspire talks about good behavior, equal treatment for all,

and the power of individuals to make a difference, making them lasting examples for people today.

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