

Patriarchal Politics in Bhisham Sahni's *Madhavi*: A Study of the Retelling of a Myth

Akanksha Vashisht

Research Scholar, K.R. Mangalam University
(akanksha1515@gmail.com)

Dr Kanu Priya

Assistant Professor, K.R. Mangalam University
(kanu13aug@gmail.com)

Abstract :

Mythological stories play a very significant role in the development of society as well as human psychology since their inception as religious and supernatural narratives to its recent adaptations in form of plays, movies, books, games etc as an aid in the exploration of the unconscious mind. Indian Mythology and our socio-cultural narratives have always depicted woman as helpless, dependent, and desirous of male support. Retelling of the mythological stories in contemporary adaptations have presented the women characters from a feminist eye, capable of expressing basic human emotions which were denied to them in myths. The present paper explores Bhisham Sahni's play, *Madhavi*, which is a radical retelling of a mythological tale, along feminist lines, of a minor woman character Madhavi from the *Udyog parva* section of the *Mahabharata* to throw light on the monstrosity of patriarchy.

Keywords: *Mythology, Retelling, Feminism, Patriarchy*