



***THE REVENGE OF KAIVALYA: A RETELLING OF A MYTH GIVING
VOICE TO THE VOICELESS***

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ABSTRACT

India, an erstwhile European colony, is rich with indigenous myths and folk tales. During the colonisation phase, these tales were considered as unauthentic by the Europeans, as they were not supported with reason. But after colonisation, these tales began to get attention, irrespective of state, culture, ethnicity, gender etc., through its representation in literary works, films etc., As a result, they attain a position of authenticity and become credible to people. Apart from these tales and legends, the people who lie in the bottom part of the society, especially the native people, come to the forefront, as they always played a prominent role in propagating Indian culture and belief systems in its entirety. Apart from the males, their female counterparts also contributed to the spreading of indigenous myth and tales.

My paper aims to analyse how the traditional myths or other fantasy tales occupy a central position in the mind-set of Indian consciousness, even with the advancement of technology. It is accompanied by an analysis of how a woman character becomes the source of both peace and destruction accompanied by a myth and at the same time, how she is suppressed by the same. I would like to do this through a reading of the novel "*The Revenge of Kaivalya*" (2013), by 'Sumana Khan'. Kaivalya illumines herself in a patriarchal society, but at the end, her luminosity is destroyed by the same society from time immemorial.

KEYWORDS

East-West Encounter, Ambiguity, Indigenous Myth, Gender minority