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**ONE GOD AND MANY HATREDS: A PAGAN READING OF  
MEL GIBSON'S APOCALYPTO**



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**ABSTRACT**

*Movies are a powerful medium capable of overt and subliminal ideological messages. Mel Gibson's movie Apocalypto (2006) is a great cinematic achievement, but palpably colonial and anti-pagan. Pagan studies is yet to have its academic share in colonized country like India. Even post-colonial studies marginalizes the pagan. The Mayan culture at the time of the beginning of Spanish occupation is depicted as evil and uncivilized in the movie, contrary to historical facts. Mayans are visualized as morally evil indulging in polytheism and idolatry. The colonialist and the missionary devastated the Pagan lands with their claims of civilizational and spiritual superiority. The movie supports the stereotype of pagan people and their culture. The paper attempts to make a pagan contrapuntal reading of the movie.*

**KEYWORDS**

*Colonialism- post-colonialism- ideology-- missionary-Christianity- Pagans- Paganism- Pagan studies- Ideology-monotheism – polytheism-pantheism-animism--gods and goddesses-Red Indians- Indra's Net.*