

Draupadi

— Mahaswela Devi
for Gayatri Spivak.

In 'Draupadi', M.D. presents a strong woman who despite being marginalized and exploited, transgresses conventional sexual and societal standards. M.D. does not represent the tribal woman by romanticising her depiction of Dapdi but instead realistically re-presents her through simple language and complex emotions.

Q Who was Senanayak ?

Ans. Senenayak is an army officer for the govt. of Bengal. He orders the arrest and humiliation of Draupadi, the woman who ~~held~~ led the tribal revolt in the Naxalites' struggle for agrarian reform during the 1960s.

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An agricultural society.

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Q Theme?

Ans - "Drapedi" recognises a woman's body as an asset through which they can resist the socio-political objectification of their bodies and overcome oppression.

Q Portraits of inequality.

Ans - The inequality and injustice in the tribals' lives bothers Dopdi. For example, Surja Sahu's home has "unlimited water" when there is not a drop in drought-struck Birkhun, particularly for "untouchables". Dopdi, who loses her husband (Bijay) in an encounter, enacts a final act of chilling and powerful defiance. However, after she is caught, she walks up to the police personnel, her sari flung away, making them "terribly afraid" of an "unarmed target".