

DENIAL OF CHOICES: A STUDY OF THE MYTH OF SITA IN THE ANTHOLOGY IN SEARCH OF SITA: REVISITING MYTHOLOGY

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Abstract

In the contemporary transnational impulse, Ramayana has taken a new relevance all over the world. Embellished with the core issues of culture and tradition, it has been set as an example of morality amidst the society since ages. Contemporary socio-cultural issues like loyalty, family roles, feminism, environmental concern and the dilemma of choices and power-centers are well depicted in the form of mythical lore through this ancient epic. In Search of Sita: Revisiting Mythology (2009), an anthology edited by Malashri Lal and Namita Gokhale comprises of essays, commentaries, interviews and creative writings by eminent writers, presenting various crisscross dimensions of Sita, the leading female protagonist of Ramayana. The general perception about Sita's character is her submissiveness, devoted conjugal sincerity and her sacrificing ability which present her as an archetypal figure in Indian society. Present paper intends to focus on the contemporary relevance of Sita as a woman who is substantial enough in making choices of her own so far as the decisions of her life are concerned.

Keywords: denial, mythology, culture, Archetypal figure, tradition.