

Book Review

Aadhunik Bharatiya Kavita Me Radha by Rakesh Kumar Tripathi, Delhi: Anugya Books, ISBN: 9788193402863, <https://anuugyabooks.com/>

Reviewed by

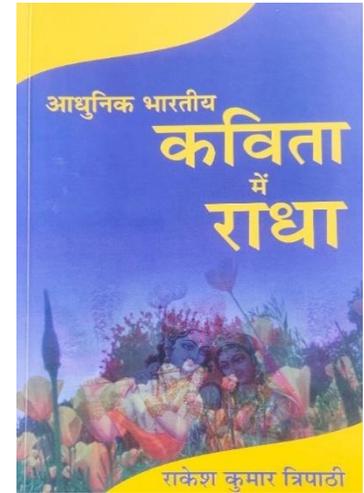
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Rakesh Kumar Tripathi's *Aadhunik Bharatiya Kavita Me Radha* is an intellectually invigorating reexploration and interpretation of Radha as a literary and cultural archetype, specifically through the lens of two seminal works—Dharamvir Bharati's *Kanupriya* (1959) and Ramakant Rath's *Shri Radha* (1985). This meticulously researched monograph combines rigorous scholarship with a profound appreciation of poetry, and it also presents a nuanced comparative analysis of modern Indian poets' exploration that have reinterpreted Radha's mythological essence in the contemporary time.

The author structures his study around three critical dimensions—modern context, the nature of love, and poetic structure. He emphasizes the layered complexity of the Radha-Krishna narrative in modern Indian literature. The preface of the book establishes the central premise: while Radha's presence is largely absent from the foundational texts like the *Bhagavata Purana*, she emerges as a fully formed character in later works like Jayadev's *Geet Govind* and subsequently through the Krishna Bhakti tradition. Such foundational influences serve as a prelude to the

modern reinterpretations and articulations examined in the present book. In his detailed and deep analysis, the author highlights the writings of modern poets like Dharamvir Bharati and Ramakant Rath who transcend the tradition by embedding Radha's story with the existential dilemmas, emotional intricacies, and sociocultural pressures of their respective times. This approach reflects not only the enduring universality of Radha's character but also the adaptability of mythological narratives in addressing contemporary themes.

The first chapter examines how both *Kanupriya* and *Shri Radha* reconstruct Radha's character to suit the demands of modern sensibilities. Dharamvir Bharati's *Kanupriya* portrays Radha as a symbol of feminine strength and spiritual longing, surpassing the patriarchal margins of conventional roles. In the same way, Ramakant Rath's *Shri Radha* dives into the psychological depths of Radha's love and separation and presents her as a symbol of deep existential inquiry. The author aptly situates these reinterpretations within the broader discourse of modern Indian literature,

and points out that myth becomes a medium for personal and societal introspection.

The second chapter of the book investigates the depiction of love through the Radha-Krishna metaphor. The author interprets that while Dharamvir Bharati emphasizes Radha's spiritual and selfless devotion, Ramakant Rath searches her emotional vulnerability and human desires. The evaluation is deeply insightful, as it highlights that love is not merely an eternal value but also a dynamic force shaped by individual and collective experiences. The contrast between Bharati's transcendental perspective and Rath's humanistic approach enriches the reader's understanding of the multifaceted nature of love.

In the last chapter, the author investigates the aesthetic elements of Kanupriya and Shri Radha. His adoption of the "Poem on the Page" methodology—borrowed from American criticism—allows for a concentrated investigation of each work's rhythm, imagery, and stylistic developments. By merging textual analysis with larger thematic insights, Tripathi reveals the subtle interplay of form and content in these poetry masterpieces.

Scholarly and Cultural Significance.

One of the book's strengths resides in its comparative approach, which bridges language and cultural gaps between Hindi and Oriya

literature. Tripathi's emphasis on translated materials, bolstered by conversations with Oriya academics and poets, reveals his dedication to promoting a comprehensive view of Indian literature. His work exemplifies the promise of comparative literature as a subject that transcends geographical and language confines.

Although the book's academic rigour is praiseworthy, its dependence on translations instead of original materials may cast doubt on the veracity of certain conclusions. Furthermore, the absence of a distinct conclusion may result in some readers desiring a more integrated summary of the study's results. *Aadhunik Bharatiya Kavita Me Radha* represents a significant addition to the domain of comparative Indian literature. The author Rakesh Kumar Tripathi's thorough research, perceptive analysis, and profound engagement with the poetry of Bharati and Rath make this book indispensable for researchers and aficionados of Indian literary studies. By reconceptualising Radha as a perpetual but dynamic being, Tripathi enhances our comprehension of her character and highlights the transforming influence of poetry in contemporary society. This work is essential for anyone intrigued by the connections of mythology, literature, and modernity. A must read!

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Received: 04 December, 2024; Accepted: 12 December, 2024. Available online: 30 December, 2024

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