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SUBJECT: COMPULSORY ENGLISH

TOPIC: CHITRA (PLAY) BY RABINDRANATH TAGORE

PRESENTED BY

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

CHITRA

By Rabindranath Tagore.

- Rabindranath Tagore, in Bengali Rabindranath Thakur born on 7 May 1861- 7 August 1941 also known by Bhanu Singha Thakur and other sobriquets Gurudev, Kabiguru, and Biswakabi was a polymath, poet, musician, artist and ayurveda researcher.
- He was widely known for his poetry. However, Tagore wrote novels, essays, short stories, travelogues, dramas and thousands of songs.
- His works widely noted for their rhythmic, optimistic and lyrical in nature.
- His works center around theme of Common-people.
- Tagore's experiment with Drama begins with his brother Jyotirindranath.
- his first original piece of play, he wrote when he was just about twenty is *Valmiki Pratbha*.
- *Chitrangda*, *Chandalika*, and *Shyama* are other key plays that have dance-drama adaptations, which together are known as Rabindra Nritya Natya.

BACKGROUND TO THE PLAY:

- Chitra is a play by R. Tagore, it has an account in the “Hindu” epic *Mahabharata*, is the princess of Manipura, the Daughter of King Chitravahana and one of Arjuna’s consorts. She had a son from Arjuna named Babhruvahana.
- it is not described in epic Mahabharata, how Son of Pandava, Arjun met with Chitra and his three years life spent with her and at the end he left her alone, and resumed for further exile.
- Rabindranath Tagore adapted the account in his play *Chitra*.
- The play has a theme of Love, exile, penance, departation etc.
- Tagore retold the story of Chitrangada, princess of Manipur Kingdom of Mahabharata , in the play *Chitra*.

CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY

- **MADANA:** GOD OF LOVE
- **VASANATA:** KING OF THE SEASON, SIGN OF YOUTHFULNESS
- **ARJUNA:** ONE OF THE SONS OF PANDVA,
- **CHITRA:** PRINCESS OF MANIPUR, RAISED AS A SON BY KING OF MANIPURA.

PLOT SCENE I

- Scene I starts with dialogue among Chitra, Madan and Vasanta.
- Chitra is standing with folded hands in front of Madan, God of Love and Vasanta, king of the Season, eternal youth. She is praying to them and ask for boon.
- Chitra introduced herself to the Gods and said:
CHITRA: I am Chitra, the daughter of the kingly house of Manipur, with Godlike grace lord Shiva promised to my royal grandsire an unbroken line of male descent, nevertheless, the divine word proved powerless to change the spark of life in my mother's womb...so unbelievable was my nature. Woman though I be.

- Madana and Vasanta are listening to her and knows that she raised by her father as like a son and she carries a masculine characteristics within her nature.
- Chitra told Madana that she possess all the greatest skills as a worrier but she has not learned the cupid's archery, the play of eyes.
- Madana said “that requires no schooling fair one the eye does its work untaught, and he knows how well, who is struck in the heart.”
- one day she went for roving alone at bank side of the Purna river she encountered with an incident and met a man who has physical like worrier and wondering in forest after she came to know he belongs to the great Kuru clan. And began to feel or give heart to him. This is for the first time such things are happenings with her.

- Chitra told Madana the last words of Arjuna “I have taken the vow of twelve years celibacy. I am not fit to be thy husband!”
- Chitra already has lost her heart to him. She is very certain on it and telling that Beauty is the greatest weapon of all... unnumbered saint and sages have surrender the merits of life long penance at the feet of a woman.
- Chitra asked Madana and Vasanta to give her boon of most superb beautiful so she can catch the attention of Arjuna from the vow of Celibacy.
- Madana replied, “ Lady, I grant thy prayer.”
- Vasanta: Not for the short span of a day, but for one whole year the charm of spring blossoms shall nestle round thy limbs.

SCENE II

➤ Scene opens with Arjun, who is overwhelmed in awe by the beauty of a sitting near water brink of lake side, and mesmerized by the beauty and charm of a woman. She is not less than any fairy lady for him. She is the utmost beauty on the earth. She is like some heavenly body come on the earth in woman disguise. Arjuna is in wonder in thinking “who is that beautiful creature of the God?”

➤ Arjun and Chitra encountered each other and engaged in conversation, over that Chitra asked Arjuna, In what way she could do hospitality of her guest? And Arjuna answered:

ARJUNA: Fairy Lady, the very sight of you is indeed the highest hospitality.

➤ Arjuna asked “What stern who keeps you immured in this solitary temple, depriving all mortals of a vision of so much loveliness.

➤ Chitra replied she has a secret desire in heart for the fulfillment of which I offer daily prayers to lord Shiva.

- As Arjuna comes to know that Chitra has a desire of a man who is all known is non another than him and moment he lost himself for the fairy lady.
- Chitra is trying to convenience him not be victim of forge and fragile beauty of God all this is fake but Arjun give himself on the feet of Fairy Lady.
- Scene ends with Chitra dialogue:

CHITRA: Alas, it is not I, not I Arjuna! It is the deceit of a god. Go, go, my hero, go. Woo not falsehood, offer not your great heart to an illusion. Go.

SCENE III

➤ Scene opens with Chitra thinking of how did she spend her night barely, she saw the passion in the eyes of Arjuna, struggling for it and Chitrra felt spark in the body. No, impossible to stop now (Enter Madana and Vasanta)

➤ And asked god Madana to take his boon back she can not bear it now just because though I have everything, I am unfulfilled.

“Ah, God of Love, what fearful flame in this with which thou has enveloped me!
I burn & I burn whatever I touch.”

➤ Madana wanted to know what happened with Chitra last night.

➤ Chitra narrates all the wonderful praises she heard from Arjuna.

➤ Vasanta interrupt and speak “A limitless life of glory can bloom and spend itself in a morning.

➤ Chitra’s unconscious desire of love, not on the mark. She wanted to feel or experiencing the depthness of love, she spend many nights sleepless. As she woke up in the morning and as she opened eyes realized the realities.

➤ Madana replies I gave all that you desire still I hear this cry of anguish.

- Chitra sadly said in negative tone who drank the wine of love? Love is the rarest completion of life desire, Love is presented before me but I can not grasp. All my gifted beauty goes in vain .
- Madana asked Chitra how it is possible when everything is with you Chitra.
- After not fulfilling the thirst or desire of passion. She asked Madana to take back boon that had given to Chitra and said she revealed herself before Arjuna the truth of her past life and bare pain of broken heart.
- Scene ends with Vasanta suggestion to Chitra .

Let the autumn the flowering season over then boon works. Your heat boiled body would be fallen and Arjuna will gladly accept the abiding fruit in you. “O child, go back to you mad festival.”

SCENE IV

Chitra and Arjuna takes central position in the scene.

- Chitra asked in wonder to Arjuna ‘Why do you watch, me like that, my worrier?’
- Arjuna replied how gracefully you weave the garland, skills and grace twin brother and sister are dancing playfully in your tips.
- Arjuna started thinking of his and her family life, but Chitra interrupt him and said this is not for the home... make a love as long as it last. She asked Arjuna to put the garland on.
- Scene ends with Arjuna dialogue, “Sound of prayer bells from a distant village temple steals upon the evening air across the silent tress.

SCENE V

Vasanta and Madana in center position. It is a short scene of the play.

- Scene V opens with Vasanta's conversation with Madana that Vasanta can not be longer part of this game which is the flame of love that burn by Madana.
- Madana let Vasanta knows that it's been end of the year, about to finished but I know Ever Changing nature of yours.

SCENE VI

In scene vi, Chitra and Arjuna take central position.v

- Scene opens with Arjuna talking about ‘gem’ which he saw in a dream but he did not find anything to restore it.
- Chitra enters, Chitra asked Arjuna, what he was thought of. Arjuna told about hunting what he wants to do like and tell her this is one of the duties of Kshyatriya’s and recollecting the memories of hunting with brothers.
- About asking of Chitra’s home and world, she kept herself numb in negation.
- Chitra Remarks that she has no past and that she’s as transient as a drop of dew which upsets Arjuna
- Arjuna expressed his worries of losing her and he is unsatisfied by heart.
- Scene ends with Chitra Dialogue “ it is heaven’s blessing that has made flowers life short. This youthness beauty of flower die shortly but what for you loved, your beggar’s heart come back again & again with unsated desire, like a thirsty bee when summer blossoms lie dead in the dust.

SCENE VII

Scene VII is the shortest scene of the play after scene V.

- madana rememorized Vasanta, this is the last night of the boon given by Vasanta.
- Vasanta told Chitra , whatever you have enjoyed till last night all that fade away tomorrow from then a new journey of your life will start.
- Chitra again request gods make her light most beautiful and bright like the final flicker of a dying flame.
- Madana bless Chitra with her last wish. Grant!

➤ SCENE VIII

- On the other side, same time, Arjuna hears tales of the worrier Chitra and started to wonder what she might be like.
- Never having told him her name, Chitra assures Arjuna that he would never have Noticed Chitra if he had passed by her and tries to coax him into bed.
- Arjuna rejects, saying that some villagers have informed him that the village is well protected. but to no avail.
- Arjuna's mind is occupied with thoughts of the princess , to which Chitra bitterly asks if he would love her more if she were like the princess chitra he admires.
- Arjuna replies that since she always kept her true self a secret, he has never truly grown to love her as much as he could and that his love is “incomplete”. Noticing that this Upsets her, Arjuna tries to console his companion.

SCENE IX

- the play ends with Chitra finally admitting to Arjuna that she is the princess of which he spoke of and that she begged for beauty in order to win him over.
- she admits that she is not a perfect beauty, but that if he would accept her then she would remain with him forever. Chitra also admits that she is pregnant with his son.
- Arjuna meets this news with joy and states that his life is truly full.

THEMES

- 1) Love
- 2) Exile and celibacy (Arjuna)
- 3) Supernatural element (two Gods)
- 4) theme of Worrier
- 5) theme of feministic approach
- 6) Theme of beauty



THANK YOU