

The Quest

A PEER-REVIEWED LITERARY JOURNAL

A.N. Dwivedi Contemporary Indian English Poetry

Ravi Nandan Sinha Acharya Bharata's Theory of *Rasa*

M.S. Veena Indian Booker Prize Winners and the Postcolonial
Culture Industry

R.P. Singh The Prison Poetry of Faiz Ahmed Faiz

Achala Sharma The Quest of Aswapathy in Sri Aurobindo's *Savitri*

Pooja Critical Discourse Analysis and the Study of Literary
Narratives

Julie P.S. The Aesthetics of Contemporary 'Hero' and the Politics
of Representation

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and Grandmother*

Editor

Ravi Nandan Sinha

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Negotiating the Aesthetics of Contemporary 'Hero' and the Politics of Representation

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Abstract

Studies in popular culture have been reverberating in our academic circles since the last decade. Films, a part of popular culture, have delved deep into our psyche and moulded a culture of its own. Globalization and technical outburst had its impact on film industry which resulted in a drastic change in themes, style, settings and narration. Especially after 2010, we witnessed a sea change in the theme, characters and narrative style of the movies. Apart from stories of heroism, we came across real lives of everyday people from different walks of life. In place of a hero who is innovative, determined and working within a frame of conventionality, a common man who is familiar and close to us emerged. The toxic of masculinity hovering around and the evil of dominant patriarchy have been lessened in due course. The latest in this series is *Thodimuthalum Driksakshiyum* (2017) where the director's crafty hand entrusts the responsibility of taking the story forward on a thief. My paper tries to focus on the new hero (anti hero) who skillfully holds the rein of action and how the director gives an indictment on the society by shedding the conventionality of heroism.

Key words: masculinity, hero, patriarchy, power

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