

story of passion, loss and sacrifice in the contexts of Vedic ritual, spiritual discipline (*tapsaya*), social and ethical differences between human agents, and interrelated forms of performance still close to their moments of origin”¹. It brings to light the difference between the Brahminical way of life, which is secretive and hypocritical, and the tribal way of life which is open and frank. Brahminism is associated with orthodoxy, ruthlessness, egocentrism and intolerance, whereas the tribal culture represents tolerance, compassion, love, hope and understanding. The condition of women is miserable in both the cultures. Both Vishakha and Nittilai are ill-treated in their respective social orders. But there is a difference. Vishakha, the transgressive woman is chastized but not punished, whereas Nittilai is killed for preferring Arvasu to her husband.