PREFACE

Feminism as a theory, has always interested me. The way the matrilineal society of early civilization, where a central place was given to woman and all that she stood for—nature, love, care nurture, etc, was replaced by the patriarchal setup and so-called male values of success, competition, property and power, has never failed to arouse my curiosity. It was this interest of mine, that prompted me to take up the present study. Drama, a genre involves people. The themes and the questions posed by a particular play are fresh and uppermost in the audience's mind when they step out of the theatre. The relationship of a play with the dominant culture in which it intervenes, becomes important and automatically generates discussions. 'Gender' is a crucial issue in any play, as important as the class, race, geographical location, and its action. It affects the focus of the play, its narrative drive, its representational priorities and above all, its themes and meanings. Hence drama becomes a powerful medium when any social change is to be envisioned.

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