

# Concept of Ardhanarishvara: Indian Literature Projecting Conjugal Intimacies” & “Discovering the Self: Nagar’s *Nachyo Bahut Gopal*

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**Abstract**—My first paper entitled “**Concept of Ardhanarishvara: Indian Literature Projecting Conjugal Intimacies,**” talks about significance of the Ardhanarishvara incarnation as the interdependence of Nature and Man – Man and Woman. Philosophical musings as far back as the RigVeda contemplated the universe as the result of an interplay between the male principle purusha, the prime source of generative power but calm, and a female principle that came to be known as prakriti , an active principle that manifests reality, or power shakti, at work in the world. On a philosophical level, this female principle ultimately rests in the oneness of the male, but on a practical level it is the female that is the most significant in the world.

Ardhanarishvara

Synthesis of masculine and feminine

Purusha and Prakriti

Feminine intense and masculine quiescent power

Through seven chakras a divine power floats

Named as kundalini

Journey through lotuses

Shakti is awakened

Then Shiva meets

A union of two halves happens in divine moment

Shiva tatva and Shakti tatva comprises whole UNIVERSE ...

In this paper, myths are revisioned, rewritten, and retold from a female point of view, it differs from the male discourse, especially by contrasting myths from the Mahabharata with stories from the Sanskrit. It depicts women’s lives and struggle across generations and barriers of patriarchal hegemony. Marriage becomes an instrument of female exploitation and subjugation. Myths are reanalyzed, rewritten and retold from the feminine perspective. It interrogates the patriarchal assumptions of original tales; it analyzes Mahabharat from the feministic perspective telling not of Karna, Arjuna or Bhima but of Gandhari and Amba. It shows that the females belong to different groups but their identity is same and that identity is of the caste ‘other’. Every myth, in the name of religion exhibits women’s suppression. Is the concept of Ardhanarishvara being followed? Where is Shakti Tatwa? Does it still exist?