

## **Persuading Human Mind For Politics: Extraction From The Plays The Legend Of Nandan Andthe Murder In The Cathedral**

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### **Abstract**

The contemporary modern lifestyle is more encircled with various forms of ideologies. This paper will try to unravel the way of overwhelming manipulation of the lives of this sphere. A few people are finding ways to have better influence over other human beings for their welfare. These two plays, 'The Legend of Nandan' and 'The Murder in the Cathedral' will examine how these historical plays precisely show the readers that the influence occurred in numerous ways for persuading wealth, power, and desire to maintain their position in the society. In these plays, a few great influential characters lead a vital role to represent the exact picturization of these issues. Good characters are undergoing a lot of challenges to succeed in their moral aspirations. To succeed, they faced hindrances by some corrupt, cunning, and crude-minded people. These representations are the real issues everywhere around us without our acknowledgment, this exists in manipulative forms. These two plays represent the existing social malice at the upper body of our systematic socio-political powers. "The Legend of Nandan" written by Indira Parthasarthy exams a new perspective that Nandan, the central character was tempted through various ideologies by the upper caste for their own political gain. Nandan struggled and end up killing himself in the clash between high and low caste society. And on the other hand "The Murder in the Cathedral" is written by modern classist T.S.Eliot, put forth in the same way, where Archbishop is psychologically persuaded by four Tempters who are sent by King Henry II.King is upset with the overgrowing power against him and the influence over the people of England. These two plays are greatly influential for schematizing vicious ways to persuade the central characters to accept their demand politically. This leads to the downfall of the central characters in both plays. This article compares and assesses the power structure which is disintegrated in a fragile shape.

**Key Words:** MoldingMyth, Persuading mind, Power and Politics, Class / Caste system, Clash

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Society is sustaining in this world over a long period, we may consider this evolution of humans is in a great level of civilization across the globe. When humans started to live together, ethnicities grew, and to guide this group a leader was required. This frame of system grabs a leader to control, guide, and safeguard from basic threats. Then generation carried a frame from one another its values and tradition. This is the way the system always tries to fix the problems of the people and resolve issues that occur in that society. But after which the system itself started to rust on its own. Emerging from this process leaders started to reshape themselves in the name of Supreme Lord, God, King, and political leader. This formation of practice started to grow up for its own sake rather than function for the reason it was shaped. This article sets the spotlight on such problems to analyze this power, system, ideology, and politics. Here is some of the representation that is practiced in various stageswhere the

lives of the common people are being manipulated. Though this system is concerned to give a better place to live but rather causes destruction because of some leaders are feeble, tyrant, selfish, and greedy enough to lead and represent a community.

Drama is the best way of picturing sensational themes, issues, and to give solutions through some representational characters by weaving these plays and resolving things as much it could do. Especially in literature, this genre of Drama is old enough to infiltrate every gesture of our life by piercing its nerve by nerve. This Drama, from old age to this modern age has the power to educate; irrespective of people who are whether literate or illiterate. 'The Legend of Nandan' and 'Murder in the Cathedral' are such plays that try to analyze the formation of structure, political power, scale, scope, and depth in our social life. Through the amoral way, some people are abducting superior positions aggressively by using political ways by persuading the targeted submissive people. The representation from The Legend of Nandan, which is based on the situation that occurred in and around the place of Chidambaram in Tamil Nadu, about the seventh century ancient India.

'The Legend of Nandan' was translated and published in 1978 by C.T.Indra, originally written in the Tamil language by Indira Parthasarathy. And on the other hand, The Murder in the Cathedral written by T.S.Eliot staged in the year 1935, gives moreover the same persisting mood and thoughts of the ancient society, always wolves like characters are trying to predate the position of power and to influence over innocent people cunningly. This incident posturizes the real incident that took place in the year 1170, in between two dominant power positions in England. In the course of history, there are numerous power issues over the apex body system in society, either we argue The Legend of Nandan illustrates the extreme higher and lower-level caste struggles to fit into the so-called high caste or in The Murder in the Cathedral which presents indirect allusion in the contemporary political crisis happened in the twelfth century.

The Legend of Nandan opens with a gentle, wise, and young protagonist, Nandan who has a great vision to attain eternity as a true devotee of Lord Shiva. And his ambitious aspirations are to become more like Hindu upper-class people. Those who have a good education, standardize family, sophisticated life, above all those who can enter into the temple and can worship God. To worship God there is a restriction for Dalits to enter into the Temple because of their lower-class birth. Though these issues are persisting, he attempts to get rid of all the myths of class divisions and tries to prepare him to be more like Paarpan, who has more privileges and considers as an elite person. These differences and sects of people are divided according to their profession but works related to God are noble than any other works. Nandan is from the Dalit class which is considered to be heinous of all so that they are being ever-growing minority people. To shatter these myths, Nandan admits himself to transform his appearance more like an elite class, by going into the temple and worshipping God. The prevailing backwardness of his community and their painstaking efforts to lead their normal life is shattering the heart of Nandan. To change their living condition, he tries to insist that the division has to be shattered. Nandan by going and engaging himself with the upper-class practices, they are provoked and infuriated by this young man. So, they vow revenge on him and to teach a lesson, not only for Nandan but for the whole Dalit community to silence them.

These acts made the elite class jealous, restless and they started to concern over the power, and rethink to snare a net to catch the big Whale (Nandhan) which is getting bigger ever. With this insecurity of

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the upper caste, some characters try to tackle the issues with intellect rather than physical power. Some of the representatives of the upper-class people like Priest, VEDIYAR, Mudaliyar, and Udaiyar came together to curb the strange dawn of this downtrodden people from the very beginning. After all the elites joined hand in hand to put an end to the uprising life of Nandan, to the contrary, he attracts more Dalits with his charming act of practical ideology which gives instant result and privilege for them.

Old Man: Stop dancing; is it fair to keep quiet when the folks in the Cheri are being corrupted?

Nandan: Is it wrong if they clean and neat? Is it a sin if they sing melodiously?

Women 1: Times have changed old man! Wake up and look!

Woman 2: Listen to what Nandan says. A decent life will dawn for us. (P No: 17)

This elite group sets a confidential meeting among the upper-class representatives, where they exchange their cunning plans against Nandan. One of the plans is to kill him, VEDIYAR takes a lead to execute a new plan in a novel way. When the scheme is in progress, this play makes us nail-bite the forthcoming horrendous plan. Dalits hail Nandan but the elites curse his initiation, the practical ideology among the lower class people are cherished with the changes even though they raise their voices against these god-like people. At this juncture of rivalry, the crocodile move is made by VEDIYAR, who praises and encourages Nandan to continue his practices. Although VEDIYAR planned much ahead against Nandan, he cleverly takes a stand on his enemy side to thrash at the right opportunity by persuading Nandan's mind. Meanwhile, VEDIYAR discussed with other elite representatives in Chidambaram how to execute the plan:

“If a man fights against the system, let the system just accept him. The party opposing him will splinter into two. Damning him as the stooge of the system, new fellows will rise to oppose his leadership. Now, this is what's happening. Just wait for some more time, you take it from me that Nandan's story is as good as over! (Laughs)” (P No:26)

Through the systematic way, VEDIYAR spins many myths which make them believe that they are indeed on the right paths to attain the glory of freedom and equality. This ever-unquenchable thirst for freedom become a slogan for them; their expectations are genuine and their longing for their rights by following the footsteps of Nandan. With the increasing hypocritical ideology from elite characters, they inject venomous plans over these innocent downtrodden people. The Dalits were made to believe that signs and miracles are happening from God. So VEDIYAR asked them to worship and offer devotional prayers. According to VEDIYAR's plan, one among the conspiracies is the myth of harvest, the harvest was done overnight by his men. But this incident is threaded with colorful lies with heavy ornaments that God made all such deeds. All the lower people started to believe that God is helping them through VEDIYAR's dream; God is foreshadowing the forthcoming incidents. Through and through they melted their minds with lies, finally, they have molded and exercised their power. So, such incidents made them fall easily as prey.

The utmost horrendous incident staged by these upper-class political hypocrites is on the verge of the play. This innocent proactive thinker Nandan was engulfed with the fuel of VEDIYAR's words. Nandan is demanded to do something in the name of God that if he wants to purify himself and their caste stain by taking a fire-bath in front of God's statue. After a moment of dilemma, Nandan decided to take the

firebath with Abirami, who demanded him to do so as a symbol of love. All the spectators are frozen by this ridiculous action about to take place. Nandan and Abirami started to usurp themselves into the raging fire. With these two dying hearts, all the positive dreams of the Dalits are burnt alive and people started to scream aloud and began to run away as they gain consciousness by the reality of the dying couple.

A similar theme in the play 'Murder in the Cathedral' is written by T.S.Eliot, which explicitly points out the nature of the political crisis of two major influential leaders in England, to sustain their power and maintain their position. The iron-hearted Thomas Becket is strong enough to defend himself and his catholic religion to preach by being an apex body of the powerful religious system in the Papal. But as the play moves along, things started to change. He has no option except to give up his position or to be martyrdom in the same Papal. He agrees in being martyrdom to safeguard the Roman Catholic sacrilegious position to preach and guide the people of England. "The link between responsibilities and suffering and let readers be aware of the fact that responsibility, no matter its level may be, anyhow implies to suffering and sacrifices" – (Alidou Razakou Ibourahima Boro).

This play brings back the context of the 1170 incident in England. Opening of the play, reader will come to know that Thomas Becket's arrival from seven years of exile can bring problems for him. King Henry II anticipated an uprising power from the church authority as he experienced the previous clashes from Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. In church, Priests are eagerly waiting for the arrival of the Archbishop, expecting this arrival may bring many ceremonies. Priests feel too weak and afraid in absence of the Archbishop as there were no gatherings in the exile period which will diminish the Papal's glory. King Hendry II does not like Becket and his religious Papal power in England, for he realizes the uprising is a threat to his supremacy. King along with four Tempters conspired to execute Becket by persuading his mind. The four Knights (Four Tempters) through their cunning and skillful play of words they try to persuade Thomas Becket;

"Your Lordship is too proud! The safest beast is not the one that roars most loud, This was not the way of the King our master!

You were not to be so hard upon sinners when they were your friends. Be easy, man! The easy man lives to eat the best dinners. Take a friend's advice. Leave well alone, Or your goose may be cooked eaten to the bone."  
(P No: 247)

The Tempters tried convincing him to follow King's order but Becket refused. While the Tempters failed to do so, they intimidate Becket by death and insisting him that he will vanish without attaining anything. The Fourth Tempters persuaded his mind to be martyrdom for his religious eternity, at last this idea pierced the heart of Becket. Becket by his faith, he believed this is the reward from God, so, finally, he agreed to be assassinated into the Papal. "He first disparages his predecessors' suggestions temporal and transient and supports Thomas in his move towards a martyr's death. And finally he hints at a heavenly grandeur that Thomas is to attain by consenting to die permanently" - Manfred Siebald 111-112).

These central characters like Nandan and Thomas Becket's assassinations are the best examples of how the human mind is persuaded by other humans for self-centered political gain. This profounding level recurring structure of political ideology is skidded from a constructive path to destructive path in

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concern with the welfare of the targeted community. So, such problems of political manipulation against the common innocent civilian needed to be identified and rectified or else this society would be witnessed thousands of Nandan and Becket in order to pursue political privileges by certain people.

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