

LECTURE 1:

RAJMOHAN'S WIFE

I had earlier uploaded a ppt highlighting the thematic issues in the novel. The following lecture is a follow-up of the textual reading we were doing in class:

- Chapter 2 –last part-Matangini's identity is revealed- special attention must be paid to Mathur's hints about Matangini's beauty –Madhab calls her a good woman-this is an important point in Matangini's identity as later chapters will reveal further strands of her character-her goodness is not the only dimension of her character.
- Chapter 3: Rajmohan is introduced-the scene of domestic violence gives the reader a hint of Rajmohan and Matangini's unhappy marriage-also Matangini's fortitude in the face of her husband's abuse is noteworthy.
- Chapter 4: Traces the genealogy of the Ghosh's –the narrator traces the negative aspects of the zamindari system –Bangshibadan's manipulative schemes makes him rich-The separate histories of Ramkanta, Ramkanai and Ramgopal are traced along with that of the heirs Madhab and Mathur-the chapter also highlights how Matangini came to be married to Rajmohan and her sister got married to Madhab-it was at Hem's request that madhab secured employment for Rajmohan-Madhab is portrayed as a lenient and benevolent land-lord-yet Rajmohan remains ungrateful for Madhab's generosity and this alienates the two sisters
- The four opening chapters act as Exposition and give the reader valuable information regarding the characters. Important information regarding the plot is also given in these chapters-these incidents will be used to build up the subsequent action of the novel.

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