

Summing up - Joothan

Joothan, a self-conscious Dalit literary text, makes a powerful statement against the oppressive caste system still prevalent in most parts of India. Valmiki's use of autobiography helps him to occupy a vantage subject position from which he presents a Dalit's lived experience. The 'true to life' format of the autobiography helps him to lay bare the brutality inherent in the caste system, which consequently becomes a powerful argument in favour of dismantling this undesirable form of social organization. At the same time, Valmiki's own struggles and success, acts as motivation for others to struggle and achieve their goals. Joothan symbolizes the struggle for dignity and human rights and demonstrates that a revolutionary transformation of society is not just desirable but possible as well.

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2. Discuss Autobiography as an appropriate genre to present Dalit oppression and Dalit consciousness.
3. Explain in detail Valmiki's school experience.
4. What is the stand taken by Valmiki's father? How was it a turning point not only for Valmiki but also for other Dalit students?
5. What is the main theme of the book Joothan?
6. What is the significance of the title Joothan?
7. "Omprakash Valmiki's Joothan narrates the voice of rejection and revolt." Comment.
8. Critically comment on the "Dronacharya story" narrated by the teacher in the novel 'Joothan'.

1.7 Self- check Questions

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