

RAKSHASAS AND ASURAS IN HINDU EPIC TALES

Madhubanti Banerjee*

*Ms. M.A., San Jose State University, United States, m.banerji2008@gmail.com

Abstract

When the Aryans came to India, they found the Hindu Valley Civilization (3300–1300 BCE) more advanced than they had ever encountered before. After many battles, when the Aryans finally settled down in the northern part of India, the non-Aryans were forced to move from the north to the south. The fact that the non-Aryans were dark-skinned and had different facial structure from the Aryans gave rise to the characters called *rakshasas* and *asuras*. By analyzing relevant parts of the Hindu mythology, this paper will trace the role of social and political factors that have been instrumental in creating such stories and how gender role played a key role in them as well.

Keywords: Aryans and non Aryans, Hindu Valley Civilization, Mythology