Gender and Genre in the Folklore of Middle India
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Published by Cornell University Press


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Gl ossary

ädiväsi  literally, original inhabitants; tribal; castes with tribal origins, such as the Gonds
bāhū  term of address for distinguished person; title of respect
bāhak  Oriya performer who sings, drums, and dances for “each of the thirteen festivals”
bahū  daughter-in-law; often used as term of address by members of the extended family other than the mother- or father-in-law
bās git  songs sung by cowherding Raut caste to accompaniment of large bamboo flutes
bhajan  devotional song
bhakti  religious devotion
bhāv′  emotion; character or quality
bhojali  nine-day festival celebrating the bhojali goddess in her form as sprouts/seedlings
bīrī  hand-rolled cigarettes made from leaves and cheap tobacco; many ädivāsi castes in Chhattisgarh make a living by picking these leaves from the jungle and rolling the cigarettes; often pronounced and transcribed bidi
burā /burī  “bad”; obscene
candainī  regional Chhattisgarhi epic whose heroine carries the same name, Candaini
celā  disciple; in performance, accompanying a lead singer/dancer
daī  Chhattisgarhi term for mother
dał  pulse; lentil
dałkhāri  festival of reversal for unmarried girls, celebrated in Phuljhar
Glossary

darśan  auspicious sight; one “takes darśan” of a deity in worship of a mūrti

dāśharā  festival celebrating Ram’s defeat of the demon Ravan

devi  goddess

dhārma  religious duty; proper action

durgāō pūjā  festival honoring the goddess Durga

gānā  song

ganēś ċaturthī  festival honoring the deity Ganesh, the elephant-headed god who removes obstacles

garh  fort

gaurā  ādīvāśī festival celebrating the marriage of the god Shiva and the goddess Parvati

gāyak  lead singer, often accompanied by disciple or other singers

ghāṭ  bank of a river or tank where people go to bathe, wash clothes; landing place

gīt  song

holi  spring festival of reversal, during which colored water or powder is sprayed/applied on friends or passers-by

homo  Oriya girls’ repartee song/game tradition

jāti  regional, endogamous caste group, in which one’s position is fixed by birth

javārā  nine-day goddess festival, in which goddess is honored in form of seedlings/sprouts

kahāṇī  story

kathā  story; often with implications of a ritual/religious story, such as vrat kathā (stories told at ritual fasts)

kathāṇī kūhā  Oriya professional storyteller

khel  game

kīsā  story, tale

kos  measure of distance, approximately two miles

kšātriya  warrior caste level/vaṇa

lākh  100,000

laṛi>yā  form of Chhattisgarhi spoken on the borders of Chhattisgarh and Orissa, highly influenced by Oriya

lok gīt  folk song

lok sāhiṭya  folk literature

Mahabharata [mahābhārat] pan-Indian epic tradition whose central story recounts the struggle over succession to the throne of Kurukshetra, resulting in a great battle between the Pandava and Kaurava cousin-brothers; Sanskrit version attributed to sage Vyasa; Chhattisgarhi orally performed variant called paṇḍavāṇī
Glossary

mahāprasād  ritual friend or friendship, formed by exchanging prasād from a ritual
maikā  woman's home of birth; literally, "mother's place"
mađalī  amusing; pleasant; pleasing
manorājan  small group; singing group
mātar  festival celebrated by cowherding Raut caste
mṛdaṅg  type of drum
mūrg  type of pulse/lentil
mūrti  image; specifically, image of a deity
nācā  dance-drama
nāṭak  drama
navrātri  auspicious period of nine days, one in the spring and one in the fall, during which the goddess is worshiped
pān  betel leaf
pauḍvānī  Chhattisgarhi performance genre of the Mahabharata (name taken from the five Pandava brothers)
pārā  neighborhood
pardeś  foreign country
patıvratā  literally, one who fulfills her vows to her husband; a woman who is faithful to her husband
prasād  food offerings to deity, distributed to worshipers after pūjā
pūjā  ritual of worship in which the deity is served in various ways (offerings made of water, food, flowers, etc.)
purana  [puṇāṇ] a Sanskrit or regional-language religious text that records the "old stories" of ancient days; a principal source of Hindu mythology
rāg  melodic structure; tune
rāgī  literally, one who keeps the rāg; accompanist to lead singer
Ramayana  [rāmāyan] pan-Indian epic tradition that recounts the life and deeds of the hero-god Ram, including his battle against the demon Ravan, who had abducted Ram's wife Sita; Sanskrit version composed by the sage Valmiki; Hindi version composed by poet Tulsidas as Rāmcaritmānas
Rāmcaritmānas  a Hindi (Awadhi) sixteenth-century devotional version of the Ramayana written by the poet Tulsidas
rāmlilā  dramatic performance of Ramayana
ṛṣi/rishi  sage; ascetic
sangvārī  literally, companion; accompanist to lead singer
śāśtra  authoritative religious text
sasurāl  woman's home/village of marriage; home/village of woman's in-laws
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sat</td>
<td>literally, truth; honor, virtue</td>
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<tr>
<td>sevā</td>
<td>service; sevā karnā, to serve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>suā nāc</td>
<td>parrot dance; ādivāsī female harvest dance and song tradition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>talāb</td>
<td>tank; reservoir</td>
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<tr>
<td>tambūrā</td>
<td>stringed instrument used to accompany singer; characteristic instrument for paṇḍvānī performance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tapas</td>
<td>ascetic practice; penance</td>
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<tr>
<td>tulsī</td>
<td>sacred basil plant representing the goddess</td>
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<tr>
<td>tyohār</td>
<td>festival</td>
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<tr>
<td>vandanā</td>
<td>invocation</td>
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<tr>
<td>varṇa</td>
<td>one of four hierarchical caste levels (brāhmaṇ, kṣatriya, vaśya, śūdra)</td>
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<tr>
<td>vīhā gīt</td>
<td>wedding song</td>
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<tr>
<td>yagyā</td>
<td>standard Hindi yajña; sacrifice, ritual offering</td>
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</tbody>
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