IMPACT: International Journal of Research in Humanities, Arts and Literature (IMPACT: IJRHAL) ISSN (P): 2347-4564; ISSN (E): 2321-8878

Vol. 6, Issue 7, Jul 2018, 391-396

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DAUGHTER AND SONS, AND SOME ASPECTS OF MARRIAGE IN VĀLMĪKI*RĀMĀYAŅA*

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Received: 19 Jul 2018 Accepted: 26 Jul 2018 Published: 31 Jul 2018

ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the representation of marriage with a view to understanding the issues related to social organization. We will discuss here about marriage being an institution, its importance in society, and the issues related to the origins of marriage, by using examples from the Rāmāyaṇa of Vālmīki. We obtain certain ideas of social stratification, hierarchies and alternate social ordering from the Rāmāyaṇa. The objective is to see whether there was a gender bias in defining marriage, as represented in the Rāmāyaṇa.

KEYWORDS: Rāmāyaṇa of Vālmīki, Maintaining Community, Caste and Class Identities.