

**LAW AND CUSTOMARY PRACTICES IN LITERARY REPRESENTATIONS: A CRITICAL
STUDY OF MOCK-TRIAL IN *SILENCE! THE COURT IS IN SESSION* BY VIJAY
TENDULKAR**

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ABSTRACT

With the production of Silence! The Court is in Session in 1967, Tendulkar created a stir in the literary society. He was considered a rebel since he challenged the established norms of a fundamentally orthodox society. Miss Leela Benare, the central character of the play and quite different from other characters, is very easily trapped in the cunning plot which is very cleverly set by her co-actors. Miss Benare's personal life is exposed through the play within the play, her illicit affair with Professor Damle, a married man with a family, who got her pregnant. She is accused with the crime of infanticide which ultimately turns into the verdict at the conclusion as the roots of contemporary Indian society being deeply entrenched in the orthodox mindset which cannot allow a child to be born out of wedlock. The paper discusses the hypocrisy of the orthodox society and its dualities which are the fundamentals of such a kind of a society.

KEYWORDS: *Mock-Trial, Law and Customary Practices, Leela Benare and Tendulkar*