



# Shree H. N. Shukla Group of Colleges

## B. A. DEPARTMENT MATERIAL

CLASS: -S. Y. B. A. Semester -4

SUBJECT: - MAIN PAPER- 8

### Hayavadana Essay Questions

1. **What is the purpose of Hayavadana in the play?**

Hayavadana's main purpose in the play is to exemplify the importance of being complete, and to demonstrate incompleteness. From his entry onstage, all he wants is to be a complete man, but he has the head of a horse, and feels the want of unity. Although Kali makes him complete, she does not care enough to pay attention to what it is that he wants and so she makes him completely a horse—almost. He still speaks with the voice of a man, which prevents him from feeling totally complete. It is not until he is able to "neigh" like a horse that he achieves full completeness, and also happiness.

This is in stark contrast to the gods, who are always complete even when visually they are the very opposite. Ganesha, the god who oversees and represents success and perfection, is a boy with the head of an elephant. This would not seem to be either complete or successful, and certainly not perfect, but it is a lesson to the human characters that gods are perfect in whatever form, whilst humans are rarely complete.

2. **Why do Devadatta and Kapila kill each other?**

The friends kill each other because they are both in love with the same woman and, more importantly, because they are themselves suffering from incompleteness. They have each other's heads on their own bodies, but their bodies have now returned to their original condition. Thus, Kapila is now muscular and physically strong again, but he is not as cerebral as Devadatta, who is newly soft and pudgy. They realize that they will forever be feuding over Padmini, forever fighting with "their" body's deep memory, forever warring against fragmentation.

3. **What might the play suggest about marriage?**

There is a lot going on in *Hayavadana* on the philosophical and moral levels, but there is still a core tale here about marriage and its concomitant disappointments. Padmini marries Devadatta but lusts after his best friend; she is discontented with her husband's brain and lack of brawn, and finds what she thinks she wants in Kapila. However, even when she miraculously ends up with what she thinks she wants, she is unhappy. Devadatta is not enough of Kapila, and he begins to lose even that small vestige. She is left wanting the "real" Kapila, but even at the end of the poem she is wondering why the three of them cannot just be together even though it defies all social norms.

Marriage, then, is a contract that is not necessarily fulfilling. Aparna Bhargava Dharwadker writes that the play shows how "conjugal passion dissipates invariably into disappointment and creates the desire for other unions, however hard the individual male self may try to preserve its ideal nature. Women do not have the power to prevent this downward slide, but they do have agency in the drama of discontent."

4. **Did Padmini mix the heads on purpose?**



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The short answer is we don't know, but we can certainly speculate! The text says simply, "Eagerly, Padmini puts the heads—that is, the masks, back. But in her excitement she mixes them up" and that she has her "eyes shut tightly," at least when she does namasakra and walks away with her back to the goddess. She seems full of consternation when she and the men realize what's happened, and claims she didn't know she was mixing them up. On the one hand, her surprise seems legitimate. It is dark, it is a tense and terrifying and portentous moment for her, and she is flustered. On the other hand, this is what she wanted deep down, and Kali knew it and did not stop her. It may have been unconscious, but it does seem possible, maybe even probable, that she did this to some degree on purpose.

5. **What might the play convey about India's independence from Britain?**

On the surface, the play doesn't look like it has much to say on this subject. It seems too fanciful, too stylized, too unattached to a particular time and place. However, as Ngozi Udengwu suggests, it is a metaphor for the fracturing of Indian identity after British colonial rule. There are "situations of mind/body dichotomy within an individual as well as within a social group," and intimations of India's problems coming out of colonial rule, which affected most aspects of Indian life. So while Indians "have won independence from the colonialists, they have discovered that their cultural identity has been fractured." Devadatta and Kapila struggle with the same fragmentation, as well as Hayavadana, and only the child who literally and figuratively comes from all the characters and all the places (the woods, the city, the "real" world of the actors, the religious milieu, etc.) offers a glimpse of how India can achieve unity.

 **HAYAVADANA Quiz**

<b>1The play was written in ____.</b>
A. THE 1980S
B. THE 1990S
C. THE 1950S
D. THE 1970S
<b>2Karnad was part of the "theatre of ____."</b>
A. MODERNITY
B. ROOTS
C. HERITAGE
D. MYTH
<b>3What god does the play begin with an homage to?</b>
A. KALI
B. GANESHA
C. RUDRA



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D. SHIVA

4Devadatta is all the following except \_\_\_\_.

A. POETIC

B. STRONG

C. SLENDER

D. HANDSOME

5Kapila is all the following except \_\_\_\_.

A. PLAIN

B. INTELLIGENT

C. MUSCULAR

D. DARK

6Who interrupts Bhagavata?

A. FEMALE CHORUS

B. ACTOR II

C. HAYAVADANA

D. ACTOR I

7What scares Actor I?

A. TWO MEN FIGHTING

B. BHAGAVATA

C. HAYAVADANA

D. KALI

8Why is Hayavadana sad?

A. HE WANTS TO BE A COMPLETE HORSE.

B. HE WANTS TO BE A COMPLETE MAN.

C. HE DOES NOT LIKE BEING MOCKED.

D. HE IS LONELY.

9All of the following are true about Hayavadana's life except for which answer?

A. HIS MOTHER FELL IN LOVE WITH A HORSE.

B. HIS MOTHER BECAME A HORSE.

C. HIS FATHER WAS A HUMAN.

D. HIS FATHER WAS A CELESTIAL BEING.

10Hayavadana's mother ended up as a/an \_\_\_\_.

A. HALF-HORSE, HALF-HUMAN

B. HORSE

C. CELESTIAL BEING

D. HUMAN



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**11** Bhagavata suggests Hayavadana go to \_\_\_\_.

- A. RUDRA'S TEMPLE
- B. GANESHA'S TEMPLE
- C. SHIVA'S TEMPLE
- D. KALI'S TEMPLE

**12** Who will guide Hayavadana to the temple?

- A. NO ONE
- B. BHAGAVATA
- C. ACTOR I
- D. ACTOR II

**13** Who is the narrator of the play?

- A. THE FEMALE CHORUS
- B. BHAGAVATA
- C. GANESHA
- D. NO ONE

**14** What sport does Kapila like?

- A. GYMNASTICS
- B. WRESTLING
- C. SHOTPUT
- D. RUNNING

**15** How does Devadatta react when Kapila asks him about the girl?

- A. WITH INDIFFERENCE
- B. WITH ANGER
- C. WITH ANNOYANCE
- D. WITH EXCITEMENT

**16** Devadatta claims the girl is important to \_\_\_\_.

- A. HIS POWER
- B. HIS PRIDE
- C. HIS POETRY
- D. HIS DREAMS

**17** What holds Devadatta back from pursuing the girl?

- A. HE DOES NOT KNOW WHERE SHE LIVES.
- B. HE THINKS HE IS NOT GOOD ENOUGH.
- C. HE IS NOT READY TO MARRY.
- D. HE IS AFRAID OF HER.

**18** Devadatta worries that Kapila is too \_\_\_\_ to woo the girl for him.



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A. ROUGH

B. WITTY

C. SENSUOUS

D. RUDE

**19 Padmini is all the following except \_\_\_\_.**

A. BEAUTIFUL

B. WITTY

C. NAIVE

D. ACERBIC

**20 Padmini is a daughter of a/an \_\_\_\_.**

A. MERCHANT

B. BRAHMIN

C. WOODCUTTER

D. LAWYER

**21 What worries Kapila about Padmini?**

A. SHE IS TOO SEXUAL FOR DEVADATTA.

B. SHE IS TOO SHARP FOR DEVADATTA.

C. SHE IS TOO WEALTHY FOR DEVADATTA.

D. SHE IS TOO LEARNED FOR DEVADATTA.

**22 Which of the following occurs after Kapila's visit to Padmini?**

A. KAPILA STARTS TO PURSUE PADMINI.

B. PADMINI BECOMES PREGNANT.

C. DEVADATTA'S AND KAPILA'S FRIENDSHIP FLOURISHES.

D. PADMINI MARRIES DEVADATTA.

**23 Where are the three planning to go?**

A. THE FAIR

B. A TEMPLE

C. A WEDDING

D. THE FOREST

**24 Devadatta is frustrated by what?**

A. PADMINI FLIRTING WITH KAPILA

B. KAPILA BEING INTERESTED IN PADMINI

C. NOT SPENDING ENOUGH TIME WITH HIS WIFE ALONE

D. ALL OF THESE

**25 Padmini replies to Devadatta's claims with all the following except which answer?**

A. KAPILA IS HIS FRIEND, NOT HERS.



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B. SHE WILL NEVER CANCEL THE TRIP.

C. HE DOES NOT ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT HER.

D. HE IS JEALOUS OF KAPILA.

26 Why does Padmini say she wanted to go on the trip even though she canceled it?

A. SHE DOES NOT WANT TO STAY AT HOME.

B. SHE LOVES KAPILA.

C. DEVADATTA NEEDS TO GET OVER HIS JEALOUSY.

D. KAPILA WAS SO SAD.

27 Padmini does not like that Devadatta \_\_\_\_.

A. IS SO STRONG

B. IS WEARING SANDAL OIL

C. IS DRESSING DIFFERENTLY

D. IS WRESTLING