

The Bull

by Bhimnidhi Tiwari

Exercise, Notes, Summary, Questions and Answers

(Exam focused Questions)

Class 12 English

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Summary

The Bull is a one act play by the Nepali writer Bhimnidhi Tiwari. It satirizes the feudal system, superstition and the hypocrisy of religious authorities. Through the death of a bull belonging to a powerful master, the play shows how those in authority can use their power to frighten and control ordinary people.

The play begins with Laxminarayan, a priest and religious authority in the court of Ranadhoj, in a state of panic. Ranadhoj's bull has died, and Laxminarayan fears that his master will become furious and punish those responsible for looking after the animal. The bull is extremely important to Ranadhoj, who treats it almost like a member of his family.

Laxminarayan blames Gore, the cowherd, for failing to take proper care of the bull. However, Gore explains that the animal had been sick for a long time, had stopped eating and had become weak. He also blames Laxminarayan for failing to arrange proper treatment or provide the bull

with suitable food earlier. Their exchange reveals that both men are worried about the consequences of the bull's death.

Laxminarayan pretends to mourn the animal deeply. He calls it "my son," "a brave soldier" and "a noble creature." These descriptions show the extraordinary importance attached to the bull. Laxminarayan's behaviour is also a way of responding to the situation and protecting himself from the master's anger.

Realizing that the bull cannot be revived and that Ranadhoj may punish them, Laxminarayan comes up with a plan. He decides to perform religious funeral rites for the dead animal. He uses his religious position to present these actions as a duty, hoping to appease the master's feelings and cover up his own failure.

Laxminarayan also calls Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari to mourn the bull. They are treated as the animal's "wives" and are expected to express grief as though they have lost a husband. This situation highlights the absurdity of the customs imposed by the powerful. It also shows how the dignity and freedom of ordinary people, especially women, are disregarded.

The play draws a contrast between the treatment of the dead bull and the treatment of living human beings. The animal receives elaborate attention and religious ceremonies, while Gore and other servants live in fear of punishment. The women are forced to participate in an arrangement that humiliates them. The master's attachment to the bull therefore becomes a way of exposing the unequal power relations within the feudal society portrayed in the play.

At the end, Laxminarayan performs the final funeral rites. He lights a lamp, chants mantras and throws flowers on the dead animal while the people around him watch. The ceremony exposes the way religious practices can be used to protect personal interests and support those in power.

Through this incident, *The Bull* criticizes feudal authority, blind superstition, religious hypocrisy and the dehumanization of ordinary people. It shows how fear of a powerful ruler can lead people to participate in unreasonable customs and sacrifice their dignity.

2. Important themes

1 Feudalism and the abuse of power

The play portrays a society in which the master's wishes control the lives of those beneath him. Ranadhoj's attachment to his bull creates fear among the people responsible for the animal. Laxminarayan and Gore worry about punishment rather than being able to deal with the situation freely.

The bull receives extraordinary attention because it belongs to a powerful person, while the servants and women have little control over their own lives. This contrast exposes the unequal relationships within the feudal system.

2 Superstition and blind faith

The elaborate funeral rites for the bull illustrate how religious customs

can be used without reasonable justification. Laxminarayan performs the ceremony to appease the master and protect himself. The play criticizes the use of ritual as a substitute for truth and rational action.

3 Religious hypocrisy

Laxminarayan holds a religious position and appears to be a learned priest. However, his actions are driven mainly by fear of punishment and concern for his own position. He uses religious authority to justify the funeral ceremony and manipulate those around him.

His behaviour exposes the gap between the values a religious authority is expected to represent and the selfish motives behind his actions.

4 Dehumanization and loss of dignity

The bull receives a funeral ceremony, while living people are frightened, humiliated and treated as though their feelings do not matter.

Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari are expected to mourn the bull as its wives. Their situation illustrates the way the powerful can disregard the dignity of others.

5 Fear and self-preservation

Laxminarayan and Gore are afraid of Ranadhoj's reaction to the bull's death. Their fear shapes their behaviour and decisions. Laxminarayan devises the funeral plan because he wants to avoid punishment and protect his position.

6 Satire and irony

The play uses an unusual and exaggerated situation to criticize social practices. A dead bull receives elaborate religious rites, and human women are made to act as its wives. These events create irony and expose the absurdity of a society in which the wishes of the powerful take precedence over human dignity.

3. Character information

1. Laxminarayan

Laxminarayan is the central character of *The Bull*. He is a Dharmadhikari, or religious judge, in the court of Ranadhoj. He represents the hypocrisy and servile behaviour of people who use their position to serve powerful authorities.

At first, Laxminarayan appears to be deeply concerned about the bull's death. He calls the animal "my son," "a brave soldier" and "a noble creature." However, his main concern is the master's likely reaction. He fears punishment and wants to protect his position.

Laxminarayan blames Gore for the bull's death, even though Gore explains that the animal had been ill for a long time. Instead of openly accepting responsibility or dealing honestly with the situation, Laxminarayan plans a religious funeral to appease Ranadhoj.

He also uses his religious authority to involve Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari in mourning the animal as its wives. His behaviour shows that he is willing to manipulate other people to protect himself.

Laxminarayan's character exposes the hypocrisy of religious authorities who use ritual and belief for personal benefit. Through him, the play criticizes the misuse of religion to support unjust power structures.

2. Gore

Gore is the cowherd responsible for looking after Ranadhoj's bull. He is frightened by the animal's death because he knows that the master may punish those responsible for its care.

Gore explains that the bull had been sick for a long time, had stopped eating and had become weak. He also blames Laxminarayan for failing to arrange proper treatment or provide suitable food earlier.

His character reveals the vulnerable position of servants within the feudal system. Even when he explains the circumstances surrounding the bull's illness, he remains at risk because the animal belongs to a powerful master.

3. Bhaktamani

Bhaktamani is one of the two women whom Laxminarayan calls to mourn the bull. She is treated as one of the animal's "wives" and is expected to participate in the mourning ceremony.

Her role illustrates how women can be forced to follow customs imposed by powerful men, regardless of their own dignity or wishes. The play uses her situation to expose the dehumanizing effects of feudal authority.

4. Chandra Kumari

Chandra Kumari is the other woman called by Laxminarayan to mourn the dead bull. Like Bhaktamani, she is treated as the animal's wife and expected to take part in the funeral arrangements.

Her role reinforces the play's criticism of customs that humiliate women and place the desires of the powerful above their dignity.

5. Ranadhoj

Ranadhoj is the master who owns the bull. According to the supplied notes, he is mentioned but does not appear on stage. Nevertheless, his authority controls the actions of the other characters.

The fear of Ranadhoj's reaction causes Laxminarayan and Gore to panic after the bull dies. His attachment to the animal also explains why Laxminarayan decides to perform elaborate funeral rites. Ranadhoj therefore represents the power and privilege of the feudal master.

4. Important events

The bull's death: Ranadhoj's bull dies, creating panic among the people responsible for its care.

Laxminarayan's fear: The priest worries that the master will punish him for the animal's death.

The argument with Gore: Gore explains that the bull had been sick for a long time and blames Laxminarayan for failing to arrange proper care.

The priest's exaggerated mourning: Laxminarayan calls the bull "my son" and "a brave soldier."

The funeral plan: Laxminarayan decides to perform religious rites to appease the master and protect himself.

The women's forced mourning: Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari are called to mourn the bull as its wives.

The final ceremony: Laxminarayan lights a lamp, chants mantras and throws flowers on the dead bull.

The satirical conclusion: The ceremony reveals the unequal treatment of animals and humans and exposes the misuse of religious authority.

5. Difficult vocabulary

Dharmadhikari - A chief justice or religious judge in a royal court

Satire - Using humour or irony to criticize people or society

Feudalism - A system where society is divided into different levels based on land and power

Superstition - A belief based on fear or supernatural ideas rather than reason

Hypocrisy - Saying you believe in something but not behaving according to it

Omen - Something believed to predict good or bad things

Mantra - A word or phrase repeated during prayer or meditation

Ritual - A set of actions performed as part of a religious or social tradition

Reverence - Deep respect or honour

Dehumanization - Treating people as if they are less than human

Servile - Too willing to obey someone powerful

Manipulative - Trying to control or influence others for personal benefit

Appease - To calm someone who is angry

Negligence - Failing to take proper care or do what is required

Irony - A difference between what is expected and what actually happens

6. Key message and main idea

The Bull criticizes the feudal system, superstition and the hypocrisy of people who use religious authority to protect their own interests.

Through the death of Ranadhoj's bull, the play shows how fear of a powerful master can lead people to perform unreasonable rituals and humiliate others.

The bull receives elaborate funeral rites, while the living people around it are treated without proper respect. The forced mourning of Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari further illustrates the loss of human dignity under oppressive customs.

The play encourages readers to question the misuse of power, blind obedience and religious practices used for selfish purposes. It draws attention to the need to treat human beings with dignity and to distinguish genuine faith from manipulation.

7. Understanding the text

a. Who are the characters in the play?

The main characters in the play are Laxminarayan, Gore, Bhaktamani, Chandra Kumari and Ranadhoj. Laxminarayan is the priest and religious authority, while Gore is the cowherd responsible for looking after Ranadhoj's bull. Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari are the two women who are treated as the bull's wives and are made to mourn its death. Ranadhoj is the master who owns the bull. According to the supplied notes, he is mentioned in the play but does not appear on stage.

b. Why is Laxminarayan worried at the beginning of the play?

Laxminarayan is worried because his master Ranadhoj's bull has died. He knows that Ranadhoj loves the animal dearly and may become furious about its death. Laxminarayan fears that the master will blame him for negligence and punish him. His anxiety reveals that he is more concerned about the consequences for himself than about dealing

honestly with the situation.

c. How does Laxminarayan describe the bull?

Laxminarayan describes the bull as "my son," "a brave soldier" and "a noble creature." These expressions show the importance attached to the animal and the exaggerated respect shown to it. His descriptions also help him present the bull's death as a major loss that deserves an elaborate funeral ceremony. By emphasizing the bull's value, Laxminarayan hopes to satisfy the master and protect himself from punishment.

d. What does Gore say about the bull's condition?

Gore says that the bull had been sick for a long time. According to him, the animal had stopped eating and had become weak. He blames Laxminarayan for failing to take the bull to a doctor or provide proper food earlier. Gore's explanation suggests that the animal's death was preceded by a period of illness and that its care had not been adequate.

e. Why does Laxminarayan call the two women (Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari)?

Laxminarayan calls Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari to mourn the bull's death. They are treated as the animal's "wives" because the master regards the bull as an exceptionally important member of his household. They are expected to cry for the animal as though they have lost their husband. This situation exposes the absurdity of the custom and shows how feudal power can force women to participate in humiliating practices.

f. What is the irony in Laxminarayan's behavior?

The irony in Laxminarayan's behaviour is that he is a religious priest who performs holy rites for a dead animal while showing little concern for the dignity of living human beings. His main purpose is to avoid the master's anger and protect his own position. Although he uses religious rituals, his actions are driven by fear and self-interest rather than genuine spiritual concern. The contrast between his religious role and his selfish behaviour exposes his hypocrisy.

g. How does the play end?

The play ends with Laxminarayan performing the final funeral rites for the dead bull. He lights a lamp, chants mantras and throws flowers on the animal while the people around him watch. The ceremony highlights the excessive importance given to the bull and the unequal treatment of human beings in the feudal society portrayed in the play. It also exposes the use of religious rituals to satisfy the powerful and protect personal interests.

8. Reference to the context

a. Sketch the character of Laxminarayan.

Laxminarayan is the central character and antagonist of the play *The Bull*. He is a Dharmadhikari, or religious judge, in the court of Ranadhoj. His character represents the hypocrisy, cunningness and servile behaviour of people who use their position to please powerful authorities.

On the surface, Laxminarayan appears to be a learned and devoted priest who respects the master's property. When the bull dies, he describes it as "my son," "a brave soldier" and "a noble creature." However, his main concern is not the death of the animal itself. He is afraid that Ranadhoj will punish him and threaten his position.

Laxminarayan tries to shift responsibility onto Gore, the cowherd. Gore responds by explaining that the bull had been sick for a long time and that proper treatment and food had not been provided. Instead of accepting the seriousness of the situation, Laxminarayan devises a plan to perform religious funeral rites for the bull.

He also calls Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari to mourn the animal as its wives. By using his religious authority in this way, he forces others to participate in an unusual and humiliating ceremony.

His behaviour shows that he uses religious practices to protect himself rather than to provide genuine spiritual guidance. Through Laxminarayan, the play criticizes religious hypocrisy, blind obedience and the misuse of authority in a feudal society.

b. Discuss "The Bull" as a satire on the feudal system.

The Bull is a satire on the feudal system because it exposes the inequality, cruelty and absurd customs that can arise when one person's authority dominates the lives of others.

In the play, Ranadhoj's bull receives extraordinary attention because it belongs to a powerful master. When the animal dies, Laxminarayan and Gore become frightened because they expect Ranadhoj to be angry. Their

fear shows how the master's authority affects those who serve him.

The treatment of the bull contrasts sharply with the treatment of human beings. Laxminarayan plans an elaborate funeral for the animal, while Gore remains vulnerable to punishment. Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari are forced to mourn the bull as though it were their husband. Their situation shows how the wishes of the powerful can override the dignity and freedom of ordinary people.

The play also criticizes the way religious authority can support feudal power. Laxminarayan uses his position as a priest to justify the funeral rites, even though his real motive is to appease Ranadhoj and protect himself. Religion becomes a means of maintaining authority rather than a source of truth or compassion.

The unusual treatment of the bull creates satire by exposing the contrast between the animal's elevated status and the low status of the human characters. Through humour, irony and exaggeration, the play criticizes a social order in which the rich and powerful can impose their wishes on others without regard for their dignity.

c. How does the play highlight the hypocrisy of religious priests?

The play highlights religious hypocrisy through the character of Laxminarayan, who holds a position of religious authority but uses religious practices mainly to protect himself.

When Ranadhoj's bull dies, Laxminarayan becomes frightened because he expects the master to punish those responsible. Instead of responding honestly to the situation, he plans to perform a funeral ceremony for

the animal. He chants mantras and carries out religious rites to appease the master and cover up his own failure.

His behaviour reveals a difference between his public role and his actual motives. As a priest, he is expected to represent religious values, but his decisions are shaped by fear and self-interest. He uses his authority to influence Gore and to make Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari participate in mourning the bull as its wives.

The ceremony also exposes the unequal treatment of human beings. The dead bull receives elaborate religious attention, while the living people are subjected to fear and humiliation. Laxminarayan does not challenge this situation. Instead, he helps maintain it through his actions.

The play therefore criticizes religious authorities who use rituals and beliefs to protect their position or satisfy powerful people. Through Laxminarayan, it shows how religious practices can lose their genuine purpose when they are used for selfish gain and to support unjust social arrangements.

9. Reference beyond the text

a. Write an essay on "Super stition in Nepali Society."

Superstition is a belief or practice based on fear of the unknown or blind faith in supernatural forces rather than scientific knowledge and reason. In Nepali society, some superstitious beliefs are closely connected with cultural and religious traditions. Although traditions can have social and cultural value, problems arise when people accept beliefs

without examining them or allow them to harm others.

People may believe in omens, ghosts, witchcraft or the influence of planets on everyday life. For example, some people avoid starting a journey if a cat crosses their path. Others consult a priest, Dhami or Jhakri before making important decisions. Such practices may influence personal choices, family life and responses to difficult situations.

Blind superstition can have harmful consequences. Some people may delay seeking medical treatment because they believe an illness has a supernatural cause. Others may be exploited by people who claim to possess special religious or spiritual powers. Superstitious beliefs can also create unnecessary fear and lead to the unfair treatment of people accused of practising witchcraft.

The play *The Bull* presents a situation in which religious rituals are used to support the wishes of a powerful master. Laxminarayan performs funeral rites for a dead bull because he wants to appease Ranadhoj and protect his own position. The ceremony reveals how religious practices can be misused when people follow them out of fear rather than understanding.

Education, awareness and rational thinking can help people examine such beliefs carefully. People can respect cultural traditions while also questioning practices that cause harm or deny others their dignity. Medical decisions, for example, should be based on appropriate medical advice rather than fear alone.

A society can preserve meaningful cultural traditions while encouraging people to think critically and treat others fairly. Reducing harmful

superstition requires education, access to reliable information and a willingness to question practices that exploit or humiliate people.

b. Do you think the master (Ranadhoj) loved the bull more than human beings? Give reasons.

According to the events described in the supplied notes, Ranadhoj appears to value his bull so highly that the needs and dignity of the people around him receive much less attention.

The bull's death causes great panic among Laxminarayan and Gore. They fear that Ranadhoj will become furious and punish them for the animal's death. Their fear suggests that the master's attachment to the bull has serious consequences for the people responsible for looking after it.

The treatment of Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari provides another example. They are forced to mourn the bull as though it were their husband. This arrangement disregards their dignity and shows how the master's wishes shape the behaviour of others.

The bull is also given elaborate funeral rites. Laxminarayan lights a lamp, chants mantras and throws flowers on the dead animal. Meanwhile, the living human characters remain subject to fear, humiliation and unequal treatment.

These incidents suggest that Ranadhoj's attachment to the bull is given greater importance than the dignity of the people under his authority. The play uses this contrast to criticize feudal power and the way a ruler's personal wishes can take priority over the rights and feelings of others.

10. Important satirical terms

Dharmadhikari: A chief justice or religious judge in a royal court. In the play, Laxminarayan holds this position and uses his authority in the situation surrounding the bull's death.

Satire: The use of humour, irony or exaggeration to expose and criticize faults in people, institutions or society.

Feudalism: A hierarchical social and political system in which landholding and power are concentrated among rulers and nobles, while dependants and servants have less power and freedom. The play portrays unequal relationships between the master and those who serve him.

Omen: An event believed to predict good or bad things in the future.

Hypocrisy: Claiming to follow moral standards or beliefs while behaving in ways that contradict them.

Mantra: A word, phrase or sound repeated during prayer or meditation. In the play, the chanting of mantras forms part of the funeral ceremony for the bull.

Irony: A contrast between what is expected and what actually happens. In *The Bull*, the dead bull receives elaborate ceremonial treatment while living human beings are humiliated.

Dehumanization: The treatment of people as though their dignity, feelings or rights do not matter.

11. Exam Focused Questions and Answers

Short Answer Questions

1. Who is Laxminarayan?

Laxminarayan is a religious priest and Dharmadhikari in the court of King Ranadhoj. He is responsible for religious duties and is expected to follow moral values. However, he is selfish and dishonest. He cares more about pleasing his master than helping ordinary people.

2. Why is Laxminarayan worried at the beginning of the play?

Laxminarayan is worried because Ranadhoj's beloved bull has died. He knows that his master loves the bull very much. He fears that Ranadhoj will become angry and punish him. He is more concerned about saving himself than about the death of the bull.

3. What does Gore say about the bull's illness?

Gore says that the bull had been ill for a long time. It had stopped eating and had become very weak. He also blames Laxminarayan for not arranging proper food or medical treatment for the bull.

4. Why does Laxminarayan call the bull "my son"?

Laxminarayan calls the bull "my son" to show how important it is to his master. He uses loving words such as "my son," "a brave soldier," and "a noble creature." He also wants to show that he cares about the

bull and please Ranadhoj. His behaviour is not completely sincere because he is mainly afraid of punishment.

5. Why are Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari called to mourn the bull?

Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari are called to mourn the bull because they are treated as its wives. They are expected to show sorrow after its death. This strange practice shows the power of the master and the blind customs of feudal society. It also shows how women are forced to follow the wishes of powerful people.

6. What does the bull's funeral reveal about the feudal society?

The bull's funeral shows that powerful people and their wishes are given more importance than ordinary human beings. The dead bull receives special care and religious rites, while servants and poor people are treated badly. It reveals the inequality, cruelty, and blind obedience found in feudal society.

7. How does Laxminarayan use his religious authority?

Laxminarayan uses his religious position to please Ranadhoj and protect himself. He performs religious rites for the dead bull and uses religious customs to control Gore and the two women. Instead of using religion to help people, he uses it to protect his own position.

8. Why is The Bull considered a satire?

The Bull is considered a satire because it uses humour, irony, and exaggeration to criticize the feudal system, superstition, and religious

hypocrisy. The bull receives more respect than living human beings. The priest also cares more about pleasing his master than helping people. These situations expose the weaknesses of society.

Long Answer Questions

1. Explain how *The Bull* satirizes the feudal system.

The Bull is a one-act play written by Bhimnidhi Tiwari. It satirizes the feudal system by showing the unfair treatment of ordinary people and the excessive power of the ruling class.

In the play, Ranadhoj is a powerful master who loves his bull very much. When the bull dies, Laxminarayan becomes frightened. He knows that his master may punish him. This shows that servants must live in fear of their master's anger.

The bull receives great respect after its death. Laxminarayan calls it "my son" and "a brave soldier." He also prepares religious rites for its funeral. However, ordinary people such as Gore are not treated with the same care and respect.

The treatment of Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari also shows the cruelty of the system. They are called to mourn the bull as its wives, even though this is an unusual and humiliating situation for human beings.

Through these events, the playwright shows that the wishes of powerful

people are more important than the feelings and dignity of ordinary people. The play criticizes a society where servants must obey their masters without question. In this way, *The Bull* exposes the injustice and inequality of the feudal system.

2. Discuss the character of Laxminarayan as a hypocritical religious authority.

Laxminarayan is one of the main characters in *The Bull*. He is a priest and Dharmadhikari in Ranadhoj's court. His character shows the hypocrisy of a religious authority who does not follow the moral values he is expected to represent.

At the beginning of the play, Laxminarayan becomes worried because Ranadhoj's bull has died. Instead of showing genuine concern for the situation, he mainly fears punishment from his master. He is more interested in protecting his position than accepting responsibility for what has happened.

Laxminarayan uses religious rituals to please Ranadhoj. He plans a special funeral for the bull and performs religious rites after its death. He presents these actions as religious duties, but his main purpose is to save himself from trouble.

His behaviour also shows a lack of respect for ordinary people. He gives great attention to the dead bull, while Gore and other servants receive little care. He also makes Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari take part in mourning the bull.

As a religious authority, Laxminarayan should guide people towards truth

and good behaviour. Instead, he uses religion to protect his own interests and support the power of his master. His character exposes the hypocrisy and moral weakness of people who use religion for personal benefit.

3. How does the play expose the dehumanization of ordinary people?

The play *The Bull* shows how ordinary people lose their dignity when powerful people control their lives. It presents a society where the wishes of a master are more important than the feelings and rights of others.

Ranadhoj's bull receives special attention even after its death. Laxminarayan calls it "my son" and "a brave soldier." He also arranges religious rites for its funeral. In contrast, Gore, the cowherd, is blamed and lives in fear of punishment. His concerns and explanations are not given the same importance as the death of the bull.

The treatment of Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari is another example of dehumanization. They are called to mourn the bull as its wives. Their own feelings and dignity are ignored because they are expected to follow the master's wishes.

Laxminarayan also uses his religious position to make people follow these customs. The servants cannot easily question the decisions of powerful people.

Through these events, the playwright shows that ordinary people are treated as if their feelings and rights do not matter. The play criticizes a system in which people must obey those in power, even when their

dignity is hurt. It reminds us that every human being deserves respect and fair treatment.

4. Explain the role of superstition and religious rituals in the play.

Superstition and religious rituals play an important role in *The Bull*. The play shows how religious practices can be used to support blind beliefs and protect the interests of powerful people.

After Ranadhoj's bull dies, Laxminarayan becomes afraid of his master's reaction. He plans a special funeral and performs religious rites for the dead animal. These actions show the importance given to the bull because of its connection with the master.

However, the rituals are not shown as acts of genuine compassion. Laxminarayan mainly wants to please Ranadhoj and save his own position. He uses his religious authority to make the death of the bull appear important and to control the behaviour of others.

Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari are also called to mourn the bull as its wives. This unusual situation shows how blind customs can hurt human dignity when people are forced to follow them.

The play does not simply criticize religious practices. It mainly criticizes their misuse for selfish purposes and the blind obedience that allows such behaviour to continue.

Through Laxminarayan's actions and the bull's funeral, the playwright shows that religion loses its true value when it is used to support injustice. The play encourages people to think carefully about customs

and treat human beings with respect.

5. Discuss the use of irony and exaggeration in *The Bull*.

Bhimnidhi Tiwari uses irony and exaggeration in *The Bull* to criticize feudal society, superstition, and religious hypocrisy.

Irony occurs when there is a difference between what we expect and what actually happens. Laxminarayan is a religious priest who is expected to guide people towards good behaviour. However, he mainly worries about pleasing Ranadhoj and protecting himself. This difference between his religious position and his selfish behaviour creates irony.

Another example is the treatment of the dead bull. The bull receives great respect and a special funeral, while living human beings are treated poorly. We normally expect people to receive more respect than animals in such situations, but the play presents the opposite. This makes the injustice of the feudal system clear.

Exaggeration is also used to make the situation more striking. The bull is described as "my son," "a brave soldier," and "a noble creature." These descriptions make the attention given to the animal seem excessive. The practice of treating Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari as the bull's wives also makes the customs of the society appear unreasonable and cruel.

Through irony and exaggeration, the playwright makes readers notice the difference between religious appearance and real behaviour. These techniques help him criticize a society where the wishes of powerful people are valued more than human dignity.

6. What does the play suggest about the relationship between power and human dignity?

The Bull suggests that when power is used unfairly, ordinary people lose their dignity and freedom. In the play, Ranadhoj is a powerful master, and his wishes control the behaviour of the people around him.

After the bull dies, Laxminarayan fears punishment because he knows how much Ranadhoj loves it. His fear shows that servants cannot act freely when their master has so much power over them. They must try to satisfy the master, even when the situation is unreasonable.

The bull receives special treatment and religious rites after its death. At the same time, Gore is blamed, and Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari are forced to mourn the bull as its wives. Their feelings and dignity are ignored because they must obey the wishes of the powerful.

Laxminarayan also uses his religious authority to support the master's power. Instead of protecting ordinary people, he helps maintain a system in which they have little control over their own lives.

The play shows that power becomes harmful when it is not guided by fairness, kindness, and respect. It criticizes a society where the wishes of a master matter more than the rights of other people. Its main message is that every human being deserves dignity and respect, regardless of social position.

12. Quick revision

The Bull is a satirical one act play by Bhimnidhi Tiwari. It centres on the death of Ranadhoj's bull and the fear this creates among those who serve the master.

Laxminarayan, a religious authority, worries that he will be punished. Gore explains that the bull had been sick for a long time. To protect himself, Laxminarayan plans a religious funeral and calls Bhaktamani and Chandra Kumari to mourn the bull as its wives.

The funeral ceremony contrasts with the treatment of living people, who are frightened and humiliated. Laxminarayan uses religious rituals to satisfy the master and protect his position. Through this situation, the play criticizes feudalism, superstition, religious hypocrisy and the abuse of power.

Main message: The play exposes a society in which the wishes of the powerful take precedence over human dignity. It encourages readers to question blind obedience, the misuse of religion and customs that humiliate ordinary people.

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