



The Modern Day Draupadi

*I have, with time, come to realise that
There is a Draupadi in every home
The saving grace, if at all, that today's Draupadi
May have a greater belief in her own strength,
Not necessarily waiting to call upon Krishna
To save her, as she is humiliated in full public view;
A Draupadi whose strength and independence,
Despite the seemingly changing times,
Are viewed with suspicion
Ridiculed, berated, mocked at and undermined
At times, without the least awareness;
At others, for fun; and still more often, in the hope
That possibly she will give up her need and demand
Of standing up - strong and determined
Against an entrenched patriarchal order
That she seeks in her own, simple ways, to overthrow.*

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