## Week 8: Badal Sircar and Conclusion

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### Lecture 1: *Stale News* and Badal Sircar (Summary)

- The play describes the colonial suppression of the Santhali revolt against the colonial state and their victimhood at the hands of police violence.
- The nationalist Hindu elite who both legitimized and opposed British rule, were estranged from the tribals and denied them their autonomy. Their intimate relationship with nature was upset by the incursions of colonial modernity.
- There is also a romanticization of Santhali society as the first agriculturist-settlers.
- A repeated phrase in the play is Damin-i-ko, that part of Bhagalpur In Bihar, where the Santhalis first settled, when their life of insularity was interrupted by British colonialism. They were exploited by moneylenders that had a powerful connection with the landholding class.
- There is a dead man in the play who symbolizes the invisibilized Santhali in the face of state and police persecution and zamindari exploitation. There is also the spread of state and socially sponsored Hinduism that threatens to wipe out the local beliefs and customs of the Santhalis.
- The play recounts the story of Santhalis being reduced to slaves and bonded labourers. The ruthless tyranny of the British and the landlords is exposed.
- The play closes with the Santhali revolt, their determination to oppose the forces that reduced them to their plight through their own strategic warfare. Although they are defeated and killed, they refuse to surrender.

Introduction to Modern Indian Drama
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### Lecture 2: Conclusion

**Please refer to the Lecture Notes of the preceding Weeks (1 to 7)**