



Beyond the Trishul: Amish Tripathi's Shiva as a Symbol of Revitalization

¹ Mrs. Rashmi Agrahari, ²Dr. Shabana Yasmeen Khan

¹Research Scholar, ²Assistant Professor

¹Department of English and Foreign Languages,

¹Guru Ghasidas Vishwavidyalaya, Bilaspur, C.G.

Abstract: This study throws light on the significance of mythological works done by a prominent author of India Amish Tripathi. It has been examined how the fictional and mythological tales narrated by the author can be a game changer in contemporary society. This study elaborates on how they can bring positive and necessary changes in the mindset of people. When you go through this research below you will find how the author tries to experiment with Shiva's mythological tales imaginatively and creatively. In addition, difference between Chandravansha and Suryavanshi has been analyzed.

Index Terms – Shiva, Myth, Religion, Trinity

I. ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Amish Tripathi is a 21st-century notable author. He is a pioneer in writing many incredible mythological works. He is known for doing extensive research on many Hindu sculptures and Vedas to produce the greatest works of art. His philosophy for ancient culture opens the doors of wisdom and growth. He has given tactical replies to his readers on modern conflicts through his mythological characters. These characters also tell readers what to do to resolve such conflicts in society. In this way, you can call him the greatest mythological writer of the modern era.

His notable works include:

Shiva Trilogy

- The Immortals of Meluha (2020)
- The Secret of the Nagas (2011)
- The Oath of the Vayuputras

Ram Chandra Series

- Ram: Scion of Ikshvaku (2015)
- Sita: Warrior of Mithila (2017)
- Raavan: Enemy of Aryavarta (2019)
- The War of Lanka (2022)

Indic Chronicles

- Legend of Suheldev: The King Who Saved India (2020)

Non-fiction

- Immortal India: Young India, Timeless Civilisation (2017)
- Dharma: Decoding the Epics for a Meaningful Life

His awards and recognition include:

- 21st Century Icon Awards (2021)
- Golden book award- Legend of Suheldev (2022)
- Listed among the top 50 most powerful people by India Today (2019)
- Honorary doctorate from Jharkhand Rai University for outstanding contribution to art and literature (2019)
- Hello Hall of Fame Awards for Literary Excellence (2019)
- Jashn-e-youngest Award (2018)
- Ustad Bismillah Khan Award for Contribution to Indian Culture (2018)
- Kalinga international literary award (2018)
- Distinguished alumnus award from IIM-Calcutta (2017)

- Raymond Crossword popular fiction award for his book Scion of Ikshvaku (2016)
- Chosen as an Eisenhower fellow (a prestigious American programme for young global leaders) (2014)

What is the Shiva Trilogy?

Shiva Trilogy is a masterpiece that has been created by a fictional mythological storyteller Amish Tripathi. This trilogy revolves around Lord Shiva who travels from Mount Kailash to Meluha. During this journey, he fights the dark forces and transforms himself into divinity. This trilogy sets upon not the real mythological incidents taken from the ancient sculptures but the fictional mythological stories narrated by Amish Tripathi in the context of modern society. In this way, he tries to solve many conflicts presented in modern society. When you read the trilogy, you will find tactful answers to your conflicts and challenges. Lord Shiva is not only a mythological figure here but also a hope to revitalize the earth.

The first trilogy 'The Immortals of Meluha' was published in the year 2011. When this book was launched, many great literary reviewers reviewed it on the grounds of mythology and contemporary society. It has been found that the mythological tales narrated by the author have no evidence in ancient Hindu literature. They are fictional.

In the first trilogy of the book, Lord Shiva has been depicted as an auspicious figure who dwells in the mountains of the Himalayas. The author realistically elaborates on his figure. When you read the story, you will be fascinated by his storytelling skill but there is no validation of his stories on the real grounds.

After the first trilogy of the book was published in 2012, two other books i.e. The Secret of Nagas and The Oath of the Vayuputras were published. In these parts of the trilogy, the author presents Shiva away from the culture. He says that Shiva is more of nature than of culture. In his trilogies, he tries to redefine the Hindu culture. The fictional tales of Lord Shiva have been depicted to re-establish the logical beliefs and thoughts of Hindus. Though you do not find any tale told in Shiva Trilogy real, it does not hurt the sentiments of the Hindu religion and ancient beliefs.

You can get the idea of Amish Tripathi's ideology and balanced thoughts with the appearance of Lord Shiva. In his trilogy, he portrays Lord Shiva as a handsome young man who dwells in the Himalayas. He is wearing only one piece of apparel made up of tiger skin around his waist. Along with a serpent on His neck, He has embellished himself with human skulls and bones. He sits on a rock with one folded leg and the other leg placed on the ground. He has a third eye in the center of His forehead and His throat is blue-colored due to drinking poison during 'Samudra Manthan.'

Lord Shiva holds a trident in his hand to kill devil forces like Tripurasura, Gajasura, Jalandhar, etc. But beyond this, Amish Tripathi portrays Shiva as a human creature who is living in a family but is called a sanyasi. He is known as a destroyer but a creator of new thoughts and beliefs. He is fierce and cruel but He is kind and fearless also. Due to his contradictory nature, it should not be believed that He doesn't love His family. He lives with His family and enjoys worldly pleasures but He also remains indifferent to them. In this way, He messages to the world how human beings can live their lives from evil temptations. He guides humanity and builds on a new civilization.

What does Amish Tripathi teach from the Shiva Trilogy?

Amish Tripathi sets Lord Shiva as an example to show how a simple man dwelling in the Himalayas can attain divinity and the status of God, by his action and deeds. The character of Lord Shiva has been portrayed with auspiciousness by the author. You will find that evil temptations don't attract Him. Since he has no worldly desire and evil temptations, he reaches the status of divinity. He accepts nature instead of culture. Nature is itself, God. The person who accepts nature gets godly power in the end.

Through this best-selling trilogy, the best-selling author Amish Tripathi portrays a motivational figure who shows the path of the young generation to readers.

Which is better? - Suryavanshi and Chandravanshi

By redefining the Hindu mythology tales and characters, Amish Tripathi tries to redefine Hindu culture, religion, beliefs, thoughts, geography, and history. He tries to modernize the Indian borders not based on ancient Hindu literature. Many ancient literary reviewers condemn it.

In this trilogy, he tries to end the war between two ideologies i.e. Suryavanshi and Chandravanshi. But later on, he takes the side of the Suryavanshi and confirms that it symbolizes goodness.

When we read the trilogy, we find that Ram Rajya denotes how a nation or a state should be. The mythological character of Lord Rama symbolizes Dharma in this story. Therefore, the author shows that the Meluha i.e. kingdom of Lord Shiva is based on the principles and rules of the Suryavanshi principles. On the contrary, Chandravanshi symbolizes bad karma. This dynasty denotes those actions that are against the law of nature, rules, and the dharma. The prohibited criminal activities are done; the forbidden sinful activities are committed; Chandravanshi followers do stealing and robbery.

The above discussion gives the idea of how difficult it is to save the values of humanity. Therefore, the Vikram people (Chandravanshi) have to ask for forgiveness for their sins in front of the pious Agni. They are not allowed to touch anyone and they are also not allowed to marry anyone. In this way, the author takes the side of good over evil. He concludes that all difficulties and miseries are the consequences of evil actions done in the previous birth.

"Lord Ram was the emperor who established our way of life, my lord, replied Nandi. 'He lived around one thousand years ago. He created our systems, our rules, our ideologies, everything. His reign is known simply as 'Ram Rajya' or 'the rule of Ram.' The term Ram Rajya is considered the gold standard in how an empire must be administered in order to create a perfect life for all its citizens. Meluha is still governed in accordance with his principles. Jai Shri Ram."

What is the meaning of Dharma and Karma according to Amish Tripathi?

According to the 21st-century bestseller Amish Tripathy, Dharma is the most important tenet of all religions. It saves us from committing wrong actions. It talks about the objectives of humanity i.e. righteousness, liberation, equality, livelihood, wealth, sensual pleasures, etc. This is not equal for everyone. According to human beings' status in society, dharma is divided. Those who know what is their dharma in a specific situation don't go down despite greed and other evil temptations. They keep their beliefs firm and stable even in misfortunes. They believe that their misfortunes are the result of the evil deeds they do in their previous births.

Karma is the constant cycle of cause and effect. Those who are facing misfortunes in their lives should not curse anyone else. They should believe that their previous births' misdeeds are making their life full of struggles. Therefore, they should not do anything wrong with anyone in this birth. Wrong actions done in this birth will be the cause of pain for them in the next birth. In this way, the cycle of karma is an unending cycle of cause and effect. The person takes birth in the caste according to his previous birth actions. According to them, he becomes obliged to commit actions in this birth.

"Vikram people, my lord," said Nandi, sighing deeply, "are people who have been punished in this birth for the sins of their previous birth. Hence, they have to live this life with dignity and tolerate their present sufferings with grace. This is the only way they can wipe their Karma clean of the sins of their previous births. Vikrama men have their own order of penance and women have their own order."

To prove his points more valid and logical, the author Amish Tripathi gives the example of Suryavanshi and Chandravanshi. He compares Suryavanshi with Utopia. Utopia symbolizes a perfect place and a perfect society where people live free from war, greed, strife, and hunger. Therefore, the Meluha society runs on the principles of Suryavanshi. On the contrary, Chandravanshi (the people of Vikram) indulge in bad deeds. Their actions are condemned by society. They are not allowed to touch or marry anyone. They can contaminate anyone.

In this trilogy, Amish Tripathi showed Meluha as a perfect society as actions are determined by abilities. The pregnant women go to the maika for their delivery. She has to leave her child for a few weeks there. Thereafter, that child is sent to the Meluha Gurukul (school for all children) for studies. In this way, all the children in the Meluha society get the same education.

In the end, the author concludes that there should be a balance between good and evil. Excessive goodness can bring evil.

Which new conflicts and challenges are introduced by Amish Tripathi through his fictional mythological novels? How can these be resolved?

Following new conflicts and challenges along with their solutions are introduced by Amish Tripathi:

- Environmental Pollution

Being an environment-conscious man, Amish Tripathy tries to enhance the importance of nature among readers. Nowadays, development and technology have become primary and nature has become secondary. Therefore, Shiva has been shown as an incarnation of nature in his novels. He elaborates on the Jhelum River as a tigris river. He elaborates on the points of Atharva Veda in his trilogy by stating that polluting and adding any toxic substance into the river are considered sinful activities. In this way, he exhibits a modern-era conflict i.e. pollution. He also includes logical thoughts in his writing to generate awareness among readers to resolve the issue.

- The low status of women

In his novels, the author Amish Tripathy portrays the strong character of females. In this way, he tries to fight the social conflict of female inequality. He built strong characters like Sati and Kali in his novels. He demonstrates their unbounded power to talk about women's rights and empowerment in modern society.

- Complexities of Hindu religions

Amish Tripathy examines the complexities of the Hindu religion, beliefs, and culture in his novels. He explores how these complexities are mirroring diverse religious beliefs in India and how they can be resolved easily.

V. CONCLUSION

This study concludes that literature always leaves an indelible impact on contemporary society. The fictional mythological tales woven by the author are a blend of new beliefs and reformation. The protagonist Lord Shiva is an incarnation of nature and his thoughts make him gain the status of God in the end. In this way, the author's purpose of making myths more analytical and philosophical has become successful. He presents physical past and displays divergent attitude towards characters and incidents justifying myths.

REFERENCES

- [1]<https://www.ilkogretim-online.org/fulltext/218-1665899335.pdf>
- [2]<https://www.jlls.org/index.php/jlls/article/download/4511/1395>
- [3]<https://www.eurchembull.com/uploads/paper/c8e0833aa41f58f2ca8b8359ef5ec7d3.pdf>

