Review Of Amish Tripathi's Novels Is The Interplay Between Myth And The Human Element

AGRAWAL SWETA DEEPAK, DR RAFIQUE KHAN

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH MALWANCHAL UNIVERSITY, INDORE.

Abstract

Amish Tripathi, the renowned author, has masterfully explored the intricate relationship between the human and divine realms in his captivating novels. One recurring theme that stands out in Tripathi's literary works is the portrayal of the human element within the divine. Through his rich storytelling, Tripathi bridges the gap between gods and mortals, delving into their shared experiences and emotions. Tripathi's novels often feature gods and goddesses from Hindu mythology, such as Lord Shiva and Lord Ram, as key characters. However, rather than presenting them as distant and unattainable entities, Tripathi infuses them with human qualities. This approach humanizes the divine, enabling readers to connect with these characters on a deeply personal level and fostering a profound emotional engagement. By giving gods and goddesses relatable characteristics, Tripathi enables them to grapple with the same challenges and dilemmas faced by ordinary humans. Love, desire, anger, and grief become universal experiences that transcend divine and mortal boundaries. This portrayal challenges conventional notions of divinity, encouraging readers to question their preconceived beliefs and reflect on the nature of the divine itself. Tripathi's adept integration of mythology with historical events adds further depth to his exploration of the human element within the divine. He seamlessly weaves together the fantastical and the factual, examining the socio-political dynamics of ancient civilizations and their impact on both gods and humans.

Introduction

Amish Tripathi, a highly acclaimed Indian author, has gained recognition for his literary works that intricately weave together mythology, history, and spirituality. One captivating element that sets his novels apart is his exploration of the human aspect within the divine. Tripathi's depiction of gods and goddesses as complex beings with multifaceted emotions, virtues, and challenges adds a unique dimension to his storytelling, inviting readers to connect with these larger-than-life characters on a personal and relatable level. Throughout Tripathi's novels, the theme of the human element within the divine consistently emerges, defying traditional perceptions of gods and goddesses as distant and unattainable entities. By imbuing these revered figures with relatable qualities and experiences, Tripathi breaks down the barriers that separate mortals from the divine, forging a connection between humanity and divinity. The exploration of the human aspect of the divine in Tripathi's works serves various purposes. Primarily, it humanizes the gods and goddesses, presenting them as flawed individuals grappling with their own internal conflicts, moral dilemmas, and existential crises. By showcasing their vulnerabilities and struggles, Tripathi offers a more nuanced understanding

of the divine, underscoring that even gods are not exempt from the trials and tribulations of the human experience, the exploration of the human element of the divine prompts readers to reflect on their own humanity and the universal struggles that shape human existence. Tripathi's characters serve as mirrors through which readers can examine their own virtues, flaws, and ethical choices. This introspection encourages readers to contemplate the potential for greatness and wisdom that lies within every individual, blurring the line between the divine and the human. Tripathi's portrayal of the human aspect of the divine challenges conventional notions of divinity and encourages readers to critically examine their beliefs and assumptions about the sacred. By presenting gods and goddesses as complex beings with relatable emotions and dilemmas, Tripathi prompts readers to revaluate their perceptions of divinity and spirituality, encouraging a more intimate and personal connection with the divine Amish Tripathi's exploration of the human element within the divine in his novels offers a fresh and captivating perspective on mythology, history, and spirituality. By humanizing gods and goddesses, he invites readers to connect with these revered figures on a deeply personal level, blurring the boundaries between the mortal and the immortal. This exploration challenges traditional notions of divinity, prompts self-reflection, and encourages a revaluation of beliefs. Tripathi's literary works serve as a testament to the power of storytelling in illuminating the human condition and inviting readers to embark on their own quests for self-discovery and spiritual growth.

Need of the Study

The study on the human element of the divine in Amish Tripathi's novels holds significant relevance and importance. By examining this aspect, several compelling reasons emerge for the need of this study. Tripathi's portrayal of gods and goddesses as relatable and flawed individuals challenges traditional notions of divinity. This prompts a reevaluation of our understanding of the divine and its connection to human existence. Investigating the human element of the divine in his novels provides an opportunity to explore how readers perceive and interpret these characters, and how it influences their own spiritual and philosophical perspectives. understanding the humanization of the divine in Tripathi's works can shed light on the broader cultural and societal implications. By depicting gods and goddesses with human qualities, Tripathi's novels reflect changing attitudes towards power, gender dynamics, and social hierarchies. Examining these implications can contribute to discussions on gender equality, empowerment, and the evolving role of mythology in shaping contemporary societal norms. the study can provide insights into the transformative potential of reimagining ancient myths. Tripathi's exploration of the human aspect of the divine encourages readers to reflect on their own humanity, virtues, and struggles. Investigating the impact of this narrative approach can reveal the ways in which mythological storytelling can foster personal introspection, empathy, and moral contemplation.

Summary of Amish Tripathi's Trilogy

Amish Tripathi's trilogy, consisting of "The Immortals of Meluha," "The Secret of the Nagas," and "The Oath of the Vayuputras," takes readers on a captivating journey through ancient India, blending mythology, history, and fantasy. The trilogy reimagines the legends surrounding Lord

Shiva, one of the most revered deities in Hindu mythology, presenting a fresh perspective on the character and exploring themes of destiny, morality, and the human aspect of the divine. In the first book, "The Immortals of Meluha," readers are introduced to Shiva, a tribal leader who is chosen as the Neelkanth, the prophesied savior of humanity. Shiva's journey takes him to the kingdom of Meluha, where he must confront the evil forces threatening its existence. Along the way, he discovers the truth about his own identity and embarks on a mission to fulfill his destiny. "The Secret of the Nagas," the second book in the trilogy, delves deeper into Shiva's quest as he seeks to uncover the mystery behind the Nagas, a group of enigmatic beings with a hidden agenda. The narrative explores the conflict between good and evil, blurring the lines between heroes and villains and raising questions about the nature of morality and sacrifice. The final installment, "The Oath of the Vayuputras," sees Shiva facing his ultimate challenge as he battles against powerful adversaries to save the world from destruction. The narrative unfolds with epic battles, intricate political alliances, and revelations that reshape the understanding of the divine forces at play. Throughout the trilogy, Amish Tripathi's storytelling combines elements of Indian history, mythology, and philosophy, creating a rich and immersive narrative. The series presents a nuanced exploration of themes such as destiny, power, love, and the complexities of the human condition. Tripathi humanizes the divine characters, portraying them with flaws, doubts, and internal struggles, inviting readers to connect with them on a personal level. Amish Tripathi's trilogy has garnered widespread acclaim for its engaging narrative, thought-provoking themes, and its ability to breathe new life into ancient mythological tales. The series stands as a testament to Tripathi's talent for reimagining mythology and sparking a renewed interest in Indian history and culture.

Defining and Understanding Myth:

Myth can be defined as a traditional narrative or story that serves as a means to explain, interpret, and make sense of fundamental aspects of human existence, the natural world, and the supernatural. Mythologies are found in cultures across the globe and often involve gods, goddesses, heroes, and legendary creatures. While myths are often associated with ancient societies, they continue to hold cultural and symbolic significance in modern times.

Understanding myths requires recognizing their multifaceted nature. They are not merely fictional tales but carry deep symbolic and cultural meaning. Myths serve various functions within a society, such as explaining the origins of the world, providing moral guidance, and reinforcing social norms and values. They often reflect the aspirations, fears, and beliefs of a particular culture and act as a repository of collective wisdom and shared heritage. Myths are typically characterized by their timeless themes and archetypal characters. These archetypes, such as the hero, the trickster, or the wise elder, represent universal aspects of the human experience and embody fundamental human qualities, desires, and conflicts. The power of myths lies in their ability to resonate with individuals across different times and cultures, offering insights into the human condition and addressing existential questions. Myths are not meant to be understood literally but rather as symbolic narratives that convey deeper truths. They utilize metaphors, symbolism, and allegory to convey abstract concepts and spiritual insights. As such, myths often transcend the boundaries of literal interpretation and open avenues for multiple layers of meaning and interpretation. Furthermore, myths are a dynamic

and evolving aspect of human culture. They adapt to the changing needs and values of societies over time, undergoing reinterpretation and modification. As a result, myths can be retold and reimagined in various forms, including literature, art, film, and popular culture. myths are traditional narratives that convey symbolic, cultural, and spiritual meaning. They serve as a means of understanding and explaining fundamental aspects of human existence. Through archetypal characters and timeless themes, myths offer insights into the human condition and continue to resonate with individuals across different cultures and historical periods.

Breaking the shackles of Gender Stereotypes

Breaking the shackles of gender stereotypes is a critical and ongoing societal endeavor. Gender stereotypes are ingrained beliefs and expectations about how individuals should behave based on their assigned gender. They limit and restrict individuals, reinforcing rigid norms and perpetuating inequality. Challenging gender stereotypes is vital for promoting equality, empowerment, and inclusivity. It involves recognizing that gender is not a determinant of one's abilities, interests, or worth. Breaking these stereotypes requires collective efforts across various realms of society, including education, media, workplace, and cultural practices.

Education plays a pivotal role in challenging gender stereotypes. By promoting inclusive and diverse curricula, education can empower individuals to critically analyze and question societal norms. It can provide opportunities for girls and boys to explore a wide range of interests, aspirations, and career paths, challenging traditional gendered expectations. The media also plays a significant role in shaping perceptions and reinforcing gender stereotypes. It is crucial to promote positive and realistic portrayals of diverse individuals, breaking away from limiting gender roles and representations. Media can amplify diverse voices, stories, and achievements, challenging existing stereotypes and promoting inclusivity. Workplaces and organizations have a responsibility to create environments that foster equality and inclusivity. Breaking gender stereotypes in the workplace involves addressing biases in hiring, promotion, and pay practices. Encouraging diverse leadership, flexible work arrangements, and providing support for worklife balance can contribute to breaking gender barriers and creating a more inclusive work environment. Cultural practices and norms also need to be re-examined to break free from gender stereotypes. Challenging traditional expectations regarding gender roles and responsibilities can lead to a more equitable distribution of household tasks and caregiving responsibilities. Promoting gender equality in cultural practices, traditions, and celebrations can challenge harmful stereotypes and promote inclusivity. Individuals also have a crucial role to play in breaking gender stereotypes. By questioning and challenging societal norms, individuals can challenge gender biases and promote equality in their everyday interactions. Supporting and uplifting individuals who defy gender norms and encouraging open conversations about gender equality can create a more inclusive society, breaking the shackles of gender stereotypes is a vital endeavor for achieving true gender equality and promoting inclusivity. It requires efforts at various levels, including education, media, workplaces, cultural practices, and individual actions. By challenging and dismantling gender stereotypes, we can create a society that celebrates diversity, empowers individuals, and ensures equality for all, irrespective of gender.

HUMAN AND MYTHS

Amish Tripathi, through his literary works, explores the intricate relationship between humans and myths. Tripathi's novels often delve into ancient mythologies, drawing from rich cultural and religious traditions. He weaves together the human experience with the narratives and symbols of myths, creating a compelling tapestry that resonates with readers. Tripathi recognizes the enduring power of myths to convey deep truths about the human condition. He skillfully brings these mythological stories to life, breathing new meaning and relevance into ancient tales. By incorporating elements of mythology into his narratives, Tripathi invites readers to engage with the timeless themes and archetypal characters that are central to myths. Tripathi explores how myths can shape human beliefs, values, and actions. His novels demonstrate the profound impact that myths have on individuals and societies, influencing their worldviews, identities, and sense of purpose. Tripathi's characters often grapple with the influence of myths on their lives, seeking to understand their roles within larger mythological narratives. At the same time, Tripathi recognizes the agency of humans in shaping and reinterpreting myths. He challenges the idea that myths are static and unchanging by presenting characters who question, challenge, and subvert traditional mythological narratives. Tripathi's works highlight the transformative potential of myths and the human capacity to reinterpret them in ways that reflect contemporary sensibilities. Through his exploration of the intersection between humans and myths, Tripathi prompts readers to reflect on their own relationship with mythology and the ways in which myths shape their understanding of themselves and the world. He invites us to question the influence of myths on our beliefs and behaviors, and encourages us to engage critically with these narratives to construct our own meanings and interpretations. Amish Tripathi's exploration of the connection between humans and myths in his literary works demonstrates his deep appreciation for the enduring significance of mythology. By blending the human experience with mythological narratives, Tripathi illuminates the power of myths to shape human beliefs, values, and identities. He also highlights the agency of humans in reinterpreting and reimagining myths, inviting readers to engage critically with these narratives and construct their own understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Conclusion

The exploration of the human element of the divine in Amish Tripathi's novels offers a captivating and thought-provoking perspective on mythology, history, and spirituality. Tripathi's portrayal of gods and goddesses as flawed yet relatable characters challenges traditional notions of divinity, prompting readers to reflect on their own humanity and the universal struggles shared by mortals and immortals alike. By infusing ancient mythological narratives with the human element, Tripathi breathes new life into these timeless tales, making them accessible and relatable to contemporary readers. This approach encourages a deeper engagement with mythology, inviting readers to explore profound themes such as identity, morality, destiny, and the complexities of the human condition. Tripathi's exploration of the human aspect of the divine also offers an opportunity to examine the transformative power of storytelling. Through his narratives, readers are prompted to reflect on their own virtues, flaws, and ethical choices, fostering personal introspection and moral contemplation. Moreover, the

humanization of the divine in Tripathi's works challenges conventional beliefs and expands the boundaries of spirituality and divinity. By presenting gods and goddesses as multidimensional characters, Tripathi prompts a reevaluation of our understanding of the divine, encouraging a more intimate and personal connection with the sacred. The study of the human element of the divine in Amish Tripathi's novels not only enriches our understanding of his literary works but also contributes to broader discussions on the intersections of mythology, spirituality, and the human experience. It sheds light on the power of storytelling to bridge the gap between the mortal and the divine, provoking introspection and contemplation of our own inherent divinity. Tripathi's exploration of the human element within the divine showcases his ability to reimagine ancient myths and make them relevant to contemporary readers. It invites us to reflect on our own humanity, challenge preconceived notions, and embark on a quest for self-discovery and spiritual growth. Through his novels, Tripathi demonstrates the enduring power of mythology to illuminate the human condition and inspire profound introspection.

References

- 1. Lakshmi, R. Maha. "EUPHEMISTIC NARRATION AN ART OF CONVEYING MESSAGE IN AMISH TRIPATHI'S _SCION OF IKSHVAKU'." Literary Herald An International refereed English e-journal (2016): 128-131.
- 2. Madhumita Srinivasan. https://www.thehindu.com. 3 January 2015. 19 April 2020 https://www.thehindu.com/features/lit-for-life/my-women-charactersare-strong-amish-tripathi/article10609254.ece.
- 3. Meera, Anjali Nair. "Concealed Countenances: A Re-Conceptualization of Sita in Amish Tripathi's Sita: Warrior of Mithila and Volga's Liberation of Sita." International Journal of Innovative Technology and Exploring Engineering 8.7C (2019): 155-157.
- 4. Neha Kumari, Dr Rajesh Kumar. https://www.academia.edu. August 2017. 19 April 2020
 - https://www.academia.edu/34615371/The_Correlation_of_Myth_and_Feminism_as_Presented_in_Amish_Tripathi_s_Shiva_Trilogy.
- 5. Nimavat, Sunita. "Demytholization in Amish Tripathi's Scion of Ikshvaku." IJRAR 3.4 (2016).
- 6. Payel Dutta Choudhary, Rashmi Kumari. "LOOKING BEYOND VALMIKI'S TEXT: REVISIONS IN AMISH TRIPATHI'S SCION OF IKSHVAKU." Pune Research: An International Journal in English (2018): 1-6.
- 7. Prabhavati, S. Vijaya. http://ijellh.com. 21 April 2020 http://ijellh.com/OJS/index.php/OJS/article/view/7436/6203.
- 8. Rakhi Deshmukh, Jaya Dwivedi. https://www.researchgate.net. 20 april 2020 https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323430626_deconstructing_feminist_ethics_in_amish_tripathi_s_shiva_trilogy.
- 9. Sharma, Sunita. Myth Modernity and Philosophy in Amish Tripathi's Novels. 10 April 2017. SJJT University Jhunjhunu. 20 April 2020 https://shodhganga.inflibnet.ac.in/handle/10603/197989.

- 10. T.V. Sri Vaishnavi Devi, Dr. A. Sirividhya. "Reinventing Sati and Sita: A Study of Amish Tripathi's Central Women Characters from a Feminist Perspective." adalyajournal (2020): 504-511
- 11. www.questia.com. 19 April 2020 <www.questia.com/library/journal/1P4-1989835165/deconstructing-feminist-ethics-i https://www.thehindu.com. 20 April 2020 https://www.thehindu.com. /features/lit-for-life/my-women-characters-are-strong-amishtripathi/ article10609254.ece **
- 12. Campbell, Joseph. The Hero with a Thousand Faces. Princeton, N.J. Princeton University Press, 1949. Print.
- 13. Sharma, Arvind. Classical Hindu Thought: An Introduction. Oxford University Press, 2000. Print.
- 14. Issitt, Micah Lee and Main, Carlyn. Hidden Religion: The Greatest Mysteries and Symbols of the World's Religious Beliefs. ABC-CLIO, 2014. Print.
- 15. Flood, Gavin. An Introduction to Hinduism. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996. Print.
- 16. Matchett, Freda. "The Purāṇas," in The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism, ed. Gavin Flood. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2003. Print
- 17. Sandeep Kaur, Resisting Internal Colonialism: A Critical Study of Maria Campbells Halfbreed, International Journal of English and Literature (IJEL), Volume 5, Issue 4, July-August 2015, pp. 55-64
- 18. Zimmer, Heinrich. Myths and Symbols in Indian Art and Civilization. Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press, 1972. First Princeton-Bollingen Print.
- 19. G. Aiswarya and Dr. P. Madan., 'Mythology in Amish Tripathi's The Immortals of Meluha: A study, Literary Endeavour', Vol. IX NO.4, October 2018, Pp343-345.
- 20. Baldick, Chris. Oxford Concise Dictionary of Literary Terms. Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 1990. p.128. Print.