

Recasting Mythology in the Works of Amish Tripathi

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The word 'Muthos' is a Greek word which means 'Myths', a retelling story of ancient times. According to A Handbook of Literary Terms by M.H.Abrahams and Geoffrey Galt Harpham,

'Muthos' signified any story or plot whether true or invented. In its central modern significance, however a myth is one story in a mythology – a system of hereditary stories of ancient origin, which were once believed to be true by particular cultural group and which served to explain why the world is as it is and things happens as they do.

The story of myth thus can be considered as fictional or imaginative. It is directly connected with society, human rituals, immortal and supernatural things. Its roots are basically related with our ancient civilizations. According to P. Lal,

Myth holds communities and races more than languages, territory and government, myth provides insight into the mysteries of life and death with poetic richness that has starting truth and immediacy. There is no substitute for truth.

The journey of myth from ancient to the modern time is very rich in India. Indian mythological stories are also taken to illustrate ancient history or rituals in many works of English literature like Greek and Latin Mythology. Many modern writers like Devdutt Pattnaik, Amish Tripathi, Ashok K. Banker, Kavita Kane, Chitra Banarjee Divakaruni, Ashwin Sanghi uses myths, folklores in their works. Indian culture is full of mythological stories. Our great epics like Ramayan, Mahabharat, vedas, upanishadas many great works comprises myths, folklores, legends. From our forefathers to our present people mythology or myth has been represented in various ways.e.g. Ram : Scion of Ikshvaku, Sita : Warrior of Mithila , The Shiva Trilogy by Amish Tripathi, Karna's Wife : the Outcaste's Queen by Kavita Kane, The Krishna Key by Ashwin Snghi , The Prince of Ayodhya by Ashok K. Banker.

Myths are born .And then they die.It is the way of everything in the universe." (Immortal India by Amish Tripathi)

Amish Tripathi, India's most famous contemporary mythological writer give his concept about myth. He writes India is rich in myths and mythology. Myths are varied from ancient to the modern.They are born in society's mind, people follow them, worship them and then after many layers of decade they are gone automatically. He gives many examples of this like Thor who is the God of thunder and associated with lightning, oak trees and strength,has been banished from Scandinavia. Ra the sun god of ancient Egypt, whose worship was at its peak during the New Kingdom. But after that Egypt was governed by many other foreign rulers and so his popularity declined. Zeus the most divine personality of the Greek gods and had various power, lies buried in the snow at mount Olympus.

But in India, the strong believes of Lord Ram in the Ramayana, Lord Krishna in the Mahabharat, Lord Shiva in the Shivapuran are remain eternal. The culture of India,the faith of their people in their gods are unaffected still in present time. The author give its reason to us that modernization and localization play an ideal role in our mythological culture. The serial of 1980 which was based on our great epic the Ramayan was beautifully modernised. It is based on the Ramcharitmanas which is written by Saint Tulsidasji in sixteenth century. He modernised the story of Lord Ram.

The south India's 'The Kamba Ramayanam presents deep affection of its people. According to Amish Tripathi, there are hundreds of version of our epics in Asia. On the other hand the Norse Mythology, Greek Mythology had to face inconspicuousness. The reason behind it is their pace with their followers. They are connected with the ancient time.But when they attacked by Semitic religions, they modernised quickly. Their spirit and passion about old Gods debauched.

However, in India the myths of our Gods have continuously emerged, containing better and better from the good. Hence, keeping our myths more relevant, evergreen and contemporary.

Work Cited

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