

MYTHICAL AND RELIGIOUS ELEMENTS IN AMISH TRIPATHI'S SHIVA TRILOGY

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ABSTRACT

Amish Tripathi's Shiva Trilogy novels have Shiva as the central character which is modelled upon Lord Shiva of Hindu religion. The other characters in these novels have resemblance of many Hindu deities. By manipulating the mythological elements of Hindu religion Tripathi tries to 'humanize' the cosmic characters and throw them the colouring of contemporaneity. Many writers across the world have successfully used the mythical elements to suit their purpose. T.S.Eliot has effectively made use of mythic elements in his poems and has presented the kaleidoscopic view of the waster modern world. The modern readers would have otherwise remained unaware of such mythic characters as 'Sybil', 'Tiresias', etc., if not portrayed in his poems. In India 'Pan Indian Epics' like Ramayana and Mahabharata, helped the writers to subvert the common goals of moralistic purposes and to use it for pronouncing more intriguing issues like 'racism', feminism, casteism etc. Writers like Anand Neelkatan, Krishna Udayashankar, Rajiv G. Menonn, Sharath Komarraju, Volga, IravatiKarwe, Shamik Dasgupta, Kavita Kane, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Sarah Joseph and many others made Indian fiction in English to successfully incorporate 'fantasy' elements into their narratives. Also the predominant Hindu culture is replete with many stories which feed to the imagination of the modern Indian writers. Amish Tripathi's Shiva Trilogy inculcates the religious and mythical elements, in his mythopoeic process to make the modern readers view the 'Hindu Mythology' with a sense of awe and fantasy.

KEYWORDS: *Mythology, Hinduism, Subversive, Fantasy*

Received: Dec 30, 2022; **Accepted:** Jan 19, 2023; **Published:** Jan 20, 2023; **Paper Id:** IJELJUN20233