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## VASANTRAO NAIK GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES, NAGPUR

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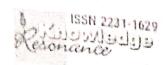
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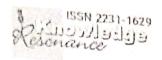
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# Myth and Reality in O.V. Vijayan's The Legends of Khasak

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#### Abstract

Historic development can be seen, in general terms, in human development. Man grows from solipsism to an awareness of the outside world. The awareness is initially overwhelmed by fear and distrust. This grows into a stage when one attempts to organise his/her perceptions of the world by explaining phenomena with help of myths and reality. The main theme provides an organic unity to a novel. Myths are toniversal phenomena having their own peculiar place in the cultural ethos and milieu of a people. O. V Vijayan's The Legends of Khasak is based on myths and reality. As it being a multifaceted novel; readers can assimilate and reproduce it in a multiple reays. Many intellectuals have found in depth presence of myths in the novel. Likewise there are several other themes like the concept of rebirth, death and nature, lust and mystic experience, sense of smetc. The present paper tries to show that O. V. Vijayan's mythmaking with reality and the various themes that expresses in the novels are not simply imaginary and irrelevent. He was not a person fabricating imaginary takes, tairealistic in nature. He is a writer belonging to most modern and post-colonial era and creates picture of what is going on in the society and the world. Superstitions are inter-woven with myths, legends, unnatural things and disaster, customs and traditions, and mainly the outcome of ignorance in the real

Keywords: Solipsism, Universal phenomena, Multi-faceted novel, Cultural ethos and milieu.

Indian mythology is one of the richest elements of Indian culture, which enriches it further and makes it a unique one in the world. Through generations, different stories in mythology have been passed either by word of mouth or through carefully stored scriptures. The interesting aspect of the stories in mythology is that they are usually meant to convey subtle facts, rules and maxims to guide our daily lives. The stories in mythology vary from subtle maxim-conveying tales of Panchatantra and Jataka-tales to subtle life paradigm defining stories from the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. So each version is right in its own merit. This certainly is the result of the natural evolution the stories might have gone in the process of being handed over from generation to generation for centuries. Significant contributions to Indian English

Fiction were made only after the Second World War. Indian fiction in English has travelled a long way from its inception. It adopted the form of novel from the western sources but developed into its own form in the time. The three writers who had contributed much for the development of Indian fiction in English are popularly known as the 'Big Three of Indian Fiction in English'; they are Mulk Raj Anand, R.K.Narayan, and Raja Rao, who wrote predominantly a humanist phase. We have witnessed the growth and development of Indian Literature in English which has won laurel as well as negative applause. O.V Vijayan's The Legends of Khasak is based on myths and reality. As it being a multi-faceted novel: readers can assimilate and reproduce it in a multiple ways. Many intellectuals have found in depth presence of myths in the novel. Likewise there are several other themes like the concept of rebirth, death and nature, lust and mystic experience, sense of sin etc.

Oottupulackal Velukkutty Vijayan, popularly known as O. V. Vijayan is a writer who has first written his novels and short stories in his regional language, Malayalam. Being a student of English Literature, he felt a need to translate them into English and he has done it. It would not be as overstatement to register here that a great novelists has been kept away from the common readers, for the courses unknown. O. V. Vijayan's Indianness lies in his choice of stories and characters taken from myths, legends, folktales and historical events. He used the form and artifice of Indian Classical and Folk Tradition. He deals with the evils of caste politics, fascism, and biased treatment of women in his novels. Myth is a traditional or legendary story, usually concerning some being or hero or event, with or without a determinable basis of fact or natural explanation, especially one that is concerned with deities or demigods and explains some practice, rite or phenomenon of nature. Translation Studies, another important offshoot of comparative literature, suits the kaleidoscopic richness of the multilingual scenario of India. Indian novels are best read from the multiple perspectives of comparative literature, translation studies and critical theory. Girish Karnad is one of the outstanding dramatists in Modern Indian English Drama. The play proceeds, exactly in the way, the playwright carries out