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A Study of the Blending of History with Fantasy in the Novels of Amish Tripathi

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Abstract

Amish Tripathi, in the Shiva Trilogy creates a marvelous world in antediluvian India spreading from Tibet to Kashmir beyond Mehrgarh, the oldest Indus valley site. The centre place is a civilization named Meluha in Kashmir where Rama ruled, which is under attack from moon and snake worshipping tribes from the east who sabotages their life line, the river Saraswati. Amish borrow several aspects from history. For instance the architecture of Meluhancity, the kingdom of Vasudevs and Vayuputras. The construction of Meluha, the location of the land of Vayuputras, all have references to ancient text. Portrayal about the various temple and cities can vary at times. Tripathi consciously evokes the Sindhusaraswati civilization in town plans, for example, the Great Public Bath. Innovatively Agnipariksha is interacted as a duel to the death within a ring of fire where Sati fights Tarak. One can easily place Sita in such scenario. The story set in 1900_{BC} is about Shiva, the chief of Tibetan tribe Guna invited by the kingdom of Meluha. The Meluhan kingdom is set about the Indus valley civilization with Mohen-Jo-Daro and Harappa both figuring among the list of the cities in the Shiva Trilogy.

Key Words: Manusmriti, Saraswati River, Assi Ghat, Ashwamedha Yagna,, Naga Mohen-Jo-Daro.

Amish Tripathi: The making of The Novelist:-

Amish Tripathi left his job as a banker for becoming a writer. He is an IIM graduate, worked 14 years in financial industry. Born on 18thOctober 1974, is known for his three novels, The Immortals of Meluha, The Secret of Nagas and The Oath of Vayuputras. He is a devoted worshiper of Shiva and believes that his books are a result of Lord Shiva's blessings. He decided to take a spiritual route. One day while watching a programme, Tripathi and his family learned that in ancient Persia, demons were known as Daivas (a term used for gods in Indian mythology) and angels were called as Asuras (a term used for demons in Indian mythology). This was an exact opposite of the Vedic etymology where evil was Asuras and gods were Devas.

Literary Reviews:-

The Immortals of Meluha is the first novel by Amish Tripathi, published in Feb 2010. It is the first book in Shiva Trilogy. The second book in the series The Secret of the Nagas was published on August 12, 2011. The third titled The Oath of the Vayuputras was come out on February 27, 2013. The trilogy is fantasy, are imaging of Indian deity, Shiva's life and adventure.

Amish's books have been sold a million copies in a span of two years with gross retail sale of 22 cores. The Shiva Trilogy has been referred as one of the most successful books series in the history of Indian publishing. The Immortals of Meluha is the first novel by Amish Tripathi. The story is set in the land of Meluha and starts with the arrival of Tibetan tribal Shiva. The Meluhans believe that Shiva is their legendary savior, Neelkanth. It is confirmed, when he consumes Somras a legendary healing poison, turns his throat blue, Shiva decides to help to Meluhans in their war against Chandrvanshi's who had joined forces with cursed groups called Nagas. However his journey and the resulting fight laid to dire consequences.