

Place of literature in Indian Knowledge System “Decoding The Immortals of Meluha through the Lens of Postcolonial Theory: Reclaiming the Indian Knowledge System”

Akangkhyā Medhi

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Department of English

Introduction

The Indian Knowledge System (IKS) is the systematic transmission of knowledge from one generation to next generation. It is a structured system and a process of knowledge transfer rather than a tradition. The Indian Knowledge System is based on the Vedic literature, the Upanishads, the Vedas, and the Upvedas. Additionally, Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), or the Bhārātīya Jñāna Paramparā Vibhāga is also a division of the Ministry of Education of the Government of India which purports to promote indigenous Indian systems of knowledge. Established in October 2020, it is located in the AICTE headquarters in New Delhi.

The Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) Division of the Ministry of Education (MoE) in India has three core principles:

Paramparā

To uphold and carry forward the wisdom that has been passed down through generations.

Drisi

To combine traditional wisdom with modern knowledge to find holistic solutions.

Laukika-prayojana

To highlight the practical utility of the IKS to solve current and emerging problems. The National Education Policy (NEP) of 2020 acknowledges the profound heritage of ancient and enduring Indian knowledge and philosophy as a guiding principle. The Indian Knowledge Systems encompass Jnāna, Vijnāna, and Jīvan Darśan, which have evolved through experience, observation, experimentation, and thorough analysis. This tradition of validation and practical application has significantly influenced various facets of our society, including education, arts, administration, law, justice, health, manufacturing, and commerce. It has also left its mark on classical and other languages of Bharat, transmitted through textual, oral, and artistic traditions. In this context, “Knowledge of India” encompasses wisdom from ancient India, along with its achievements, challenges, and India’s future aspirations, particularly in the realms of education, health, environment and all aspects of life.

From the various elements, literature plays a vital role in IKS that helps in promoting India’s rich cultural heritage, integrating mythology, philosophy and history, exemplified by Amish Tripathi’s “The Immortals of Meluha.” This epic novel seamlessly blends mythology and philosophy, illuminating IKS principles.

“The Immortals of Meluha” explores the intersection of history and myth within the IKS framework. Set in 1900 BC Meluha, the story reimagines Shiva as a human protagonist, embodying renewal and transformation. This aligns with IKS philosophy, which venerates Shiva as the third prophesied savior, Neelkanth. The novel’s mythological parallels resonate deeply with IKS themes: Shiva as destroyer and transformer echoes Hindu mythology, while Meluha and Indus Valley Civilization references provide historical context for ancient urban planning.

Through Tripathi’s masterful storytelling, IKS ideals shine forth. The Suryavanshi-Chandravanshi conflict reflects IKS’s harmony and balance emphasis. Lord Rama’s resonance within the Ramayana protagonist underscores IKS’s reverence for sacred texts. Nagas, symbolizing serpent worship, highlight IKS’s rich cultural

diversity.

By exploring Indian mythology and philosophy, “The Immortals of Meluha” fosters cultural awareness, critical thinking and spiritual reflection. This literary masterpiece embodies IKS’s interdisciplinary approach, synthesizing knowledge from diverse realms. Tripathi’s work inspires contemplation on renewal, transformation and balance, echoing IKS’s spiritual quest. Through literature like “The Immortals of Meluha,” IKS continues to enlighten minds, preserving India’s cultural legacy.

Objectives of the study

1. To portray how knowledge of addition has been incorporated in the Indian texts.
2. To understand how knowledge and wisdom have been passed down through generations.
3. To enlighten our minds with the blend of traditional and modern knowledge in order to acquire holistic solutions
4. To understand how IKS play a crucial role in resolving the day-to-day problems in the current scenario.
5. To understand the intersections of popular belief and the realistic divine with the preference of a mythological study of Amish Tripathi’s.

Immortal of Meluha

6. To advocate ourselves with the concept of multiple universes and realms.
7. To impose proper emphasis on pioneering historical fiction in Indian literature and introducing IKS to the global audiences
8. To understand the concept of tradition and innovation by blending fact and fiction.

Core Concept

Amish Tripathi (born 18 October 1974) is an author, former diplomat and broadcaster from India. He is among the fastest-selling authors in Indian publishing history, known best for The Shiva Trilogy and Ram Chandra Series. His books have sold over 7 million copies and been translated into 20 Indian and international languages since 2010. And in the first book of Shiva trilogy that is the Immortals

portrays Lord Shiva, the Mahadev, as a fascinating figure in ancient Indian mythology ,who known for being the God of Gods, destroyer of evil, passionate lover, fierce warrior and charismatic leader.He tells us how people have been intrigued by his complex personality for centuries.

He also mentions how visitors to India questioned whether Shiva was real or mythical. And over time, Indians also began doubting his humanity. Hence author Amish Tripathi challenges this doubt in his Shiva Trilogy. In his series he combines mythology, history and fiction, exploring Shiva's journey from human to divine.

The Trilogy Includes :

1. “The Immortals of Meluha” - Shiva's transformation story.
2. “The Secret of the Nagas” - Exploring his legendary life.
3. “The Oath of the Vayuputras” - Further adventures.

Tripathi's storytelling inspires self-reflection, reminding us of greatness lies within. His work honors Shiva's legacy, highlighting ancient India's vibrant culture.

The Shiva Trilogy encourages readers to tap into their inner strength, learning timeless lessons from Shiva's life.

It's relationship and contribution towards IKS

“The Immortals of Meluha” by Amish Tripathi profoundly explores India's rich cultural heritage, intertwining mythology, history and philosophy.

The novel upholds and reflects key themes and concepts from Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), illustrating Meluha's significant contributions.

Indian Knowledge System (IKS) Themes

1. Dharma (Duty): Shiva's journey emphasizes moral responsibility, righteousness and duty.
2. Karma (Action) and Rebirth: Past-life wrongdoings impact present lives, illustrating cyclical existence.
3. Spiritual Quest: Shiva navigates destiny, duty and self-discovery, echoing India's spiritual explorations.
4. Love and Redemption: Shiva and Sati's love transcends societal norms, reflecting Indian values.

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5. Conflict and Harmony: Meluha's struggles mirror India's historical and philosophical balance.

Contributions of Meluha to Indian Knowledge System

1. Philosophical Discourse: Meluha's societal structure, laws and conflicts reflect ancient Indian philosophical debates.
2. Cultural Heritage: The novel showcases India's rich mythology, history and cultural practices.
3. Spiritual Exploration: Shiva's transformation embodies India's spiritual quests and self-discovery.
4. Ethical Framework: Meluha's moral dilemmas illustrate Indian ethics and accountability.
5. Historical Context: Ancient India's geographical, social and political landscape is vividly portrayed.

Reflecting Indian Knowledge System Relationship

1. Interconnectedness: Meluha's harmony and conflict reflect India's holistic worldview.
2. Cyclical Existence: Rebirth and karma illustrate India's cyclical understanding of life.
3. Spiritual Growth: Shiva's journey embodies India's emphasis on spiritual evolution.
4. Diversity and Inclusion: Meluha's diverse cultures and acceptance mirror India's inclusive heritage.
5. Timeless Wisdom: The novel applies ancient Indian wisdom to contemporary human experiences.

“The Immortals of Meluha” masterfully integrates Indian Knowledge Systems, illustrating Meluha's significant contributions to India's cultural, philosophical and spiritual fabric.

Conclusion

In the final analysis we can conclude that “The Immortals of Meluha” by Amish Tripathi profoundly contributes to the preservation and propagation of Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS). This seminal novel masterfully weaves mythology, history and philosophy, reflecting India's rich cultural heritage. By exploring timeless themes such as Dharma (duty), Karma (action) and rebirth, spiritual quest, love and redemption and conflict and harmony, Tripathi reinforces

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IKS's relevance in contemporary contexts. Meluha's societal structure, laws and conflicts mirror ancient Indian philosophical debates, illustrating the interconnectedness of Indian thought.

The novel's significance extends beyond entertainment, offering insights into India's philosophical, historical and spiritual fabric. Its impact on cultural preservation, literary significance and pedagogical applications underscores the importance of integrating IKS into modern discourse. "The Immortals of Meluha" inspires reflection on India's heritage, fostering national pride, cultural understanding and spiritual exploration. As a cultural ambassador, this work transcends genres, solidifying its place in India's literary landscape. By embracing IKS principles, Tripathi's masterpiece embodies India's holistic worldview, echoing the nation's enduring wisdom. This iconic novel forever intertwines mythology, history and philosophy, illuminating India's majestic cultural tapestry for generations to cherish.

Research Methodology

- Primary Source– Amish Tripathi's Immortals of Meluha.
- Secondary Sources–Reference book, web sources, e-journal.

Work cited

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