



Shiva Trilogy

Amish Tripathi

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About the Book :

Immortals of Meluha :

1900 BC. In what modern Indians mistakenly call the Indus Valley Civilisation. The inhabitants of that period called it the land of Meluha – a near perfect empire created many centuries earlier by Lord Ram, one of the greatest monarchs that ever lived.

This once proud empire and its Suryavanshi rulers face severe perils as its primary river, the revered Saraswati, is slowly drying to extinction. They also face devastating terrorist attacks from the east, the land of the Chandravanshis. To make matters worse, the Chandravanshis appear to have allied with the Nagas, an ostracised and sinister race of deformed humans with astonishing martial skills.

The only hope for the Suryavanshis is an ancient legend: ‘When evil reaches epic proportions, when all seems lost, when it appears that your enemies have triumphed, a hero will emerge.’

Is the rough-hewn Tibetan immigrant Shiva, really that hero? And does he want to be that hero at all? Drawn suddenly to his destiny, by duty as well as by love, will Shiva lead the Suryavanshi vengeance and destroy evil?

This is the first book in a trilogy on Shiva, the simple man whose karma re-cast him as our Mahadev, the God of Gods.

The Secret of the Nagas :

Today, He is a God.

4000 years ago, He was just a man.

The hunt is on. The sinister Naga warrior has killed his friend Brahaspati and now stalks his wife Sati. Shiva, the Tibetan immigrant who is the prophesied destroyer of evil, will not rest till he finds his demonic adversary. His vengeance and the path to evil will lead him to the door of the Nagas, the serpent people. Of that he is certain. The evidence of the malevolent rise of evil is everywhere. A kingdom is dying as it is held to ransom for a miracle drug. A crown prince is murdered. The Vasudevs – Shiva’s philosopher guides – betray his unquestioning faith as they take the aid of the dark side. Even the perfect empire, Meluha is riddled with a terrible secret in Maika, the city of births. Unknown to Shiva, a master puppeteer is playing a grand game. In a journey that will take him across the length and breadth of ancient India, Shiva searches for the truth in a land of deadly mysteries – only to find that nothing is what it seems.

Fierce battles will be fought. Surprising alliances will be forged. Unbelievable secrets will be revealed in this second book of the Shiva Trilogy, the sequel to the #1 national bestseller, The Immortals of Meluha.

The Oath of the Vayuputras - Shiva Trilogy 3 :

The Oath of Vayuputras is the eagerly awaited third and final part of the Shiva Trilogy by Amish. Shiva, as portrayed in the previous books of the series, is a mortal Tibetan Tribal Chief who becomes the savior of the people of Meluha and joins hands with the Nagas. In this part, Shiva realizes that Nagas are not his enemies and determines to unveil the root of all evil and his true enemy.

In this final part of the Shiva Trilogy, Shiva reaches to Panchvati, the capital of the Nagas and comes face to face with Evil, a name which instills fear in the hearts of the fiercest of warriors. Shiva who is also known as Neelkanth by now, prepares for a holy war against his true enemy. Come what may, Shiva must not fail now. A series of brutal battles begins and it convulses India. In desperation to win over Evil, Shiva reaches out to the Vayuputras, who have never offered any help to him previously. He meets the chiefs of the Vasudevas and the Vayuputras in the hidden cities of Ujjain and Pariha.

Shiva also comes to know the reality about many characters that he thinks are close to him and many new characters have been introduced too in this part by the writer. Many people die in the battles but will Shiva succeed in overthrowing Evil? If so, at what cost to himself and to India? Will he finally emerge as a God from a normal mortal existence? This final part of the trilogy reveals the last and the vigorous journey that Shiva undertakes in order to destroy the evil.

Shiva Trilogy Details

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Author : Amish Tripathi

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From Reader Review Shiva Trilogy for online ebook

prathmesh says

Amazing book, depicting gods in the character of humans to show the struggles they go through and become the person we imagine they might be was a wonderful experience to read.

Ayush says

I believe Amish Tripathi, with this book has stepped into an uncharted territory. All the traits of the the mythological figure Lord Shiva have been well preserved minus the unlimited powers. This trilogy portrays a very strong message of how one's deeds determine how one is going to be know as, how it can ascend one to godhood. It also portrays how a man's virtues play an important role in life. The author's sense of perception of good and evil is something you will not see coming.

The books are so enthralling that you will not be able to stop yourself from completing the trilogy in one go as you keep on asking yourself, "What is going to happen in the next book?".

All in all it proved out to be an indulging trilogy.

harsh chanchal says

i think it is just brilliant

Arti Mishra says

Very Nice..I fell in love with Indian culture and mythology all over again.

Its just that at some places in the book, too much emphasis has been laid on detailed description of places,rivers,structures etc,hence a little boring at times. Other than that, its great.

Harikrishnan says

It was awesome to go through the world Amish created. I completed the 2 volumes in a stretch.

Akhila says

I resisted reading the Shiva Trilogy for a very long time. What people call mythology, I would like to term it as Itihasa-Purana, history that happened in ancient India in the beginning of time itself. Shiva is often referred to as Adiyogi. As a child, I was drawn to Shiva in school which stayed with me so far. He has been my favorite God, and I remember how I used to fast for him through school and college. As I grew up, I

developed a deep sense of reverence for his entire family. I believed Shiva was my trusted friend and Karthik as my Protector (naivete, hell ya). That reverence stalled me as I wasn't keen on befuddling the little knowledge I had with fiction (non-believers can stop reading at this point). Finally, I picked up the books on my stay-cation at home. I distinctly remember how hard I broke down when Ayurvati recognizes Shiva as the Neelkantha, the Saviour for the first time when he arrives in Meluha. I was on the treadmill and it was the early part of "The Immortals of Meluha". The three parts of the Trilogy are absolutely spell-binding, despite the play-up of stories and facts (again, since I am a believer)- Kali was made the twin sister and Veerbhadra as the trusted confidante, while they rose from the locks of Shiva's hair when he was in a rage after Sati's self-immolation; or the entire story of Ganesha's birth through a first husband, or how Karthik's birth was reduced (my biggest disappointment) to the most ordinary tale of simple child bearing. I always perceived Karthik's jananam as one of the most complex stories in Hindu mythology- borne of Parvati than born to her, with several purposes, apart from the most obvious one of slaying Tarakasura, leading to his avatara. As even Agni was not able to contain Shiva's Tejas, Ganga finally beholds him. Similarly, other stories such as that of Kritigga (from which Karthik's name is derived), Nagas, Somras etc. have been oversimplified. Well, in any case, I knew what I was reading.

The great story telling, connecting the dots to popular beliefs and rituals and the plots twists are enough to sustain the interest of the reader and make up for the above. I made myself open to the books, and they are splendid work. The message on good and evil as one perceives it depending on whose side one is fighting is probably most relevant to our times. Acknowledgement of Kashi's superior architecture and city planning, Brighu Maharshi's divine knowledge, the true and deep love between Shiva and Sati, Ganesha's and Karthik's legendary respect for parents, Lord Ram as one of the greatest rulers, power of Brahmastra and Pashupatastra, Mesopotamian civilization, the rivers, the complex geography of Tsang-Po, Dandak, Panchavati, the sacred relevance of Shaktipeethas and many more keep the story tight. I loved the distinction of Vasudevs (who reminded me of Illuminati) and Vayuputras the tribes of Vishnu and Rudra respectively how both act in determining what is the greatest good and when the greatest good turns evil (too much of anything is bad). I also expected the role of Vayuputras to be more detailed.

I fell in love with Shiva a thousand times more as I read the books and I am looking forward to read them all over again. His portrayal was the best.

The weakest point of the Trilogy is the oversimplified dialogue. Amish took calculated risks and did a clean job of tying them all together to connote history.

I shook in awe, swayed in emotion, cried in fragility and smiled intoxicatedly in elation as I indulged myself in these books.

Sachin says

Really liked the creative writing. This book and its writing style made me picture most of the scenes throughout the book. Now I like Shiva (as a man of flesh and blood) rather than the deity.

Har Har Mahadev

Ashish Iyer says

One of the best series I have read.

Har Har Mahadev!

Nikhila says

Depicting the gods of hindu mythology as human beings while maintaining the original characteristics for which they are worshipped for is the speciality of this series. I believe that if the story narrated was assumed to be true, instead of the actual mythology, it would still not lessen the respect that these deities engender. The story itself was innovative and gripping until the very end. Lots of respect for this masterpiece.

Chetan Kudari says

Great books. Must read. Hoping that these will come on screen similar to that of Bahubali movie series or Serial

Vartika Goyal says

If you have interest in mythology, this book is perfect for you and if you don't like mythology, storyline is enough for keeping you engaged. I am not a very big fan of Indian writers but Amish Tripathi has attempted something very different which makes me appreciate him even more.

This is a fictional story that portrays Lord Shiva in a normal human being form. King Daksha represent him as a Lord Neelkanth to his people in order to fulfil his personal gain but it turns out differently. As story proceeds, few secrets discloses to Shiva which leads to lots of twists and turns making this book more interesting. Other characters also woven in a manner that justify there name, for example Goddess Kali and Lord Ganesh, we all know they look differently but Amish know how to fit them in a story.

This book gives new definition to evil. It deals with saying that extreme good turns into extreme evil. Best part is no character in the book is either good or bad, they react as per the situation. I would say it is a must read.

Shivani Mohan says

I never never read mythology before other than the stories we read as kids.....but Shiva Trilogy has given a completely different perspective of mythology ...it something u start believing (n that too with logic)...It was thrilling romantic and full of surprisesnot to tell but i cried wen sati dies ...i know that it was to happen but cudnt stop myself....it is in a way very endearing ...just loved.....

Nandhini Narayanan says

Warning: Contains spoilers for the series as a whole.

I do not read books by Indian authors as a rule, no thank you. I belong to that small minority of book lovers who believe that authors like Chetan Bhagat and Ravinder Singh have done more harm to reading in India than good. Hence, it was not surprising to any of my friends when I responded with derision and cynicism when they recommended Amish Tripathi's SHIVA trilogy over and over. One of them finally thrust a copy of the Immortals of Meluha at me and said, "Read! Your love for Indian mythology will win over your mental block toward Indian writers."

Stuck on a train for six hours with nothing else to do, I did start reading the Immortals.... with trepidation. Three chapters in, I realised that I liked it. The story was gripping, well-paced and kept me engrossed. (The language, of course, left much to be desired, but I decided I could put up with crappy writing because I really wanted to know what happened next in the story).

Within twenty four hours, I was done with the trilogy. Here I am, typing out this review for the sake of those like me who would otherwise blindside the books.

The biggest winning point for Amish's trilogy is the plot. Even a reader who picks up the book with no prior knowledge of Indian mythology is bound to enjoy it for its rich characterisation and intertwined storylines. Indians who have grown up with household names like Nandi, Ganesh and Karthikeyan, who celebrate Shiva as a God are bound to get a kick out of Amish's creative altering of the story. Shiva's perspective is refreshingly sincere, making you immediately like this protagonist. He is not a God, he is very much man. What comes through, though, in every line of the tale, is Amish's near-fanboyish love and adoration of Shiva. And this adoration is addictive. Over time, the reader cannot help but fall in love with Shiva too; Shiva the marijuana-smoking Tibetan immigrant, this uncouth foreigner who cannot adapt to the stoic ways of the Meluhans, who is open with his affection and hugs without inhibition. You learn to like him, you learn to want him to win, you learn to celebrate with him and you learn to cry with him. Amish's greatest victory is the hero he erects in Shiva, without once having to make him a God.

Another winner, for me, was the portrayal of the female characters. With a period novel set in ancient India, I expected the misogyny to shine through every chapter. Amish surprises there too. His premise of Meluha, the ideal society, portrays gender equality at its best. There are female warriors, the prime minister of the nation is a strong and capable woman, the heroine of the tale Sati has enough backbone to fell an elephant and repeatedly, Shiv's attraction to Sati is on grounds of her courage and self-sufficiency than beauty or other stereotypically feminine attributes. Reading between the lines, you get the social commentary that Amish intentionally leaves unsaid; social growth and progress requires equality between the sexes. A society built purely based on merit and not on caste, race or gender; this utopian ideal is examined with brutal honesty.

The narrative is interspersed with philosophical questions and debates - what is life? What is good and what is evil? Can one exist without the other? When does good turn into evil? At no point in the narrative does it turn into a religious rant or preach session directed at the non-believer. The message, if any, is subtle. Shiva is cynical and pragmatic, and in a way, he is voicing questions that the reader cannot. Using the "Drink of the Gods", the "Somras" as a metaphor for "excessive good", Amish commentates on concepts like socialism, the will of the minority, poor governance, citizenry, leadership, duty and responsibility.

The big turn-off was the language used. Amish would take you, the reader, on a plotline high only to be confronted by phrases like "Bloody hell!", "In the name of God what is this nonsense!", "Goddamnit!" and other such anachronistic blunders that leave you with feeling sour.

Another major criticism of the books is the ending - avid fans who followed the books from the beginning and who waited to buy the finale were disappointed by the rather tame and understated climax. However, I

loved it because Amish avoided the cliched route. When Sati is killed, an enraged Shiva threatens to blow up a city using the potent nuclear missile-like Pashupati-astra in his grief-induced tempestuous anger. Until the last ten pages, the reader expects the cliched turnabout, waits for Shiva to talk himself out of his rage and fulfill his goal of destroying the Somras. You expect him to bury his sorrow, put on a brave face and play the hero. You expect him to rise above his human attachments, his love for Sati and see sense. You expect him to walk the righteous path that he, as the Neelkanth is espoused to do.

Not Amish, though.

Amish achieved his goal of portraying Shiva as human as possible, with human failings and emotional upheavals. Shiva is not God, as Amish set out to prove. Shiva is human, and at his weakest moment, with Sati gone, there is very little distinguishing him from the villain, Brighu. Shiva's anger, grief and near-catatonic state fascinate and honestly, terrify the reader. Amish's climax is fitting because he kept Shiva's human baseness alive, because he showed that even great men can lose kindness and compassion in the face of enormous loss.

At the end of this fascinating journey, like all good stories do, this one leaves you with mixed feelings. Read it for the plot and enjoy the ride.

Har Har Mahadev!

Vinayak says

This work of Amish Tripathi is pure excellence. To make mythology adventurous and that too in a truly compelling way is no cinch! Let me share my interpretation of these books with you.

It is the story of a Tibetan barbarian named Shiva who crosses his homeland of Tibet and embarks on a journey of India; little does he know that he is going to become a living God leaving behind a legacy for the future generations to follow. He meets the love of his life, Sati on this journey and the conversations between the two are very beautiful.

Amish also constructs a plethora of characters who help Shiva on his way to destroy the Evil. Lord Shiva as the successor to the previous Mahadev, Lord Rudra is supposed to do so. Be it the ever loyal Nandi who manifests his devotion by standing up for his wife Sati till the very end or the Meluhan vikarma Drapaku who servilely devotes himself to the Neelkanth's cause of "Taking the Evil out of the equation" or Lord Parvateshwar who is the living embodiment of loyalty; or Lord Ganesh who is the epitome of righteousness. In spite of the agonizing fate which Lord Ganesh is subjected to, his admiration for Lord Ram, the seventh Vishnu is commendable. He follows all the codes of conduct which a Kshatriya is supposed to, never indulges in subterfuge and tries to solve issues with negotiations to avoid unnecessary bloodsheds.

A lot of characters described in the book represent a particular quality, there's an inherent propensity of the character to that quality which makes it all the more interesting to identify the same: Ganesh being righteousness, Lord Parvateshwar being loyalty, Kartik being Valor and Courage (with brains as could be deduced in the concluding chapters of the third book).

Amish has amalgamated all the themes which we mortals encounter in our lives in his books: war, love, politics, adventure, parenting, philosophy etc. making it all the more intriguing for us. We can very viscerally connect with the characters in this book. The books are embellished with great literary expressions and sentences some of them being:

Only an honest evaluation of one's weaknesses followed by their mitigation can win the day.

The silence at dusk belied the exuberance of the dawn.

Sometimes the hypocritical nature of the world makes us immune to a rare sincere man.

- The Oath of Vayuputras

To possess an illusion is as good as to possess nothing.

The opposite of love is not hatred, the opposite of love is apathy.

-The Secret of Nagas

And the first rule of serendipity is that miracles come when we forget rational laws and have faith.

Death brings a final end to a soul's aspirations. Ironically, However, it is the hovering imminence of the end itself which gives a soul the courage to challenge every constraint and express even a long denied dream.

-The Immortals of Meluha

The conversations between Vasudev Pandits and the Neelkanth aka Lord Shiva are very very thoughtfully written and are exhaustively explained with examples. I can particularly recall a conversation between Lord Shiva and the chief of Vasudevs Lord Gopal where Lord Gopal convinces Shiva that everything that has a beginning is bound to end and to begin again. And it is the journey in between the two milestones that has to serve a purpose. This dichotomy operates at a universal level as well as at the microscopic level. It transcends the fabric of space and time, by which I mean, the journey can range from a picosecond to several aeons and it could span a microscopic grain of sand to a giant planetary system in a galaxy. When Shiva is still unconvinced and tries to dismiss this theory, Gopal persuades him with a simple illustration: that of the rain.

Water eventually returns to the course where it started from i.e. water bodies like rivers, seas, oceans etc. but in the journey, it flourishes the flora and fauna of the Earth. Without this cycle which according to Shiva would be pointless as the water ends up where it started from, life on Earth wouldn't be sustained. This simple example testifies the fact that everything in the universe that has a beginning has an end, including the Universe itself. And when the purpose of that thing is served, it appears as a new thing to serve another purpose.

Another interesting conversation between Lord Manobhu and Lord Shiva sparks off in the Secret of Nagas where his uncle explains him that it is not the ramifications or the consequences ensuing an event matter but it's what your karma is that makes a great deal! What you chose to do in that event and does it align with your svadharma dictates how it is going to impact your life after that event culminates.

In conclusion, this three part series is a compelling mix of adventure, drama, politics and philosophy with excellent story-telling and the best part about it is that the author is considerate of the scientific intellect of the audience and doesn't presume anything or inexorably voice his opinions anywhere in the book. You are in for an adventurously insightful treat if you choose to read this book. He is rightly called the Tolkien of India!

Neha Bhartia says

An illustrative depiction of mythological culture, beliefs and wisdom in another world and how these traits help survival of mankind. A remarkable read!
