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Representing the Somras as Evil in Amish Tripathi's *The Oath of the Vayuputras*

**Abstract**

The legends, folklore and myth are collaborated with each other. Myth inspires the historians, anthropologists, sociologists and psychologists to discover or interpret the hidden truth in the history. Retelling of mythology and history are the prominent and famous trend in Indian literature. The different perspective of the same epic makes the text interesting. The famous Indian writer Michael Madhusudan Dutt retells the great Indian Epic The Ramayanam from the female perspective. A new character has introduced to express the perspective of the Shudras in his version. But, Amish Tripathi somewhat presented the supernatural elements with logic and reasonable. Amish Tripathi's Asuras are good but the principle which was followed by them made Asuras bad. He represented the Somras as Evil. Amish Tripathi's writing begins by stating the Somras as good in his *The Immortals of Meluha* and *The Secret of the Nagas* but the controversial raised in his third book *The Oath of the Vayuputras*. The imaginations of Amish Tripathi are appreciable because he presents the Somras was the reason to make the babies as deformities. Shiva turned to be the God for destroying the Somras (the drinks of Gods) in India. The evil is well explained by Amish Tripathi in his *Shiva's Trilogy*. The maika system and the Vikrama System make the writings of Amish Tripathi so interesting. The people of Branga were affected by the Plague. It made the majority of the Brangans to left their land and settled in Kashi. The truth is that the Somras was the reason for the Plague. Ganesh had found the truth and destroyed the Mount Mondar, where the Somras produced.

Keywords: Branga, Deformities, God, Plague, Somras.

## Introduction

Amish Tripathi is one of the prominent writers in Indian English Literature. He is known for his Shiva's Trilogy. The writings of Amish Tripathi inspired the readers to follow the Lord Shiva. Myth presents the meaning of life and it clearly portrays what is evil and good to the world. The epic always carry the same concept in all literature that truth always wins at the end. The majority of the incidents were not logically presented by the mythological writers. It had been presented that the protagonist of the myth is the avatar (re-born) of Gods. Some of the characters and incidents presented in the epics are still not believable. For example, Raavan is presented as the ten headed man in the great Indian Epic *The Ramayana*. The modern writers give the explanation that he is excelled in ten fields. So, he was called as ten headed man. These arguments make the Myths as fantasy. The Indian Mythology has been presenting the Somras (the drink of Gods) as Good but Amish Tripathi has scientifically presented that the Somras is evil in his writings. Western literature also presented the supernatural elements in Myths. For example, in *Troilus Cressida*, Achilles presented as unbeatable warrior but his weakness was his heels. No one can win him, until attack his heel. Myths have been portrayed the women as the submissive and polite. The writers of early 20<sup>th</sup> century retell the myths with logically. The works of Amish Tripathi rewrites the mythological stories reasonably. He presented that the dink of Gods is Evil (Somras) and make the deformities children. The women characters of Amish Tripathi have taken from the mythology. They are presented as strong and bold. They participate in the war and save the lives of the people. A man, who has found and destroyed the Evil (Somras) was celebrated as God.

A word myth is derived from the Greek word 'Mythos'. It means a speech, thought, story and anything delivered by word of mouth. Lincoln quoted the lines from *The Republic* "a myth is false on the whole, but still having some truth in it" (Lincoln). Amish Tripathi has presented Somras as good that help to increase the life span of the people in his first novel *The Immortals of Meluha*. The people of Meluha have used the Somras daily. The author has presented the people who have born with deformities as evil in his first and second novels. Amish Tripathi has revealed the truth that the Somras is the main reason for creating the deformities children and the Nagas as good in his third novel *The Secret of the Nagas*. The Nagas (deformities children) have been attacking the Meluha continuously to stop the use of the Somras. The Somras created a lot of problems between the Brangas and Kashi. The truth

of the Somras has hidden by the Kings of India. In the words of K.S Srinivas Iyengar, it is stated as, “The leaders had sowed the wind of communal suspicion, and partition was the result; like a whirlwind, the mad act of partition was uprooting masses of humanity, mangling them, throwing them across border in heap after heap.” (Iyengar) The half of the Branga people have settled in Kashi in order to escape from the suffering of Plague and settled in Kashi. There too the children of Brangans were suffered during the summer season from plague. So, they killed the peacocks and gave it to the children instead of milk to stop the pain of plague. But, the Kashi think the peacock as their holy bird. This incident raised the calamities between them. But, Shiva realized the real effects of the Somras after meeting Bhrahaspathi in Pachavati.

Kali stated Somras as Evil:

“The Somras created the Nagas?’ asked Shiva. ‘Yes. This was discovered only a few centuries ago by the Nagas. I learnt it from them.’ ‘We didn’t discover it,’ said Kali, ‘The Vayuputra council told us.’ (OV 13)

Amish Tripathi has been created the suspension on Nagas behaviours. They have been chasing Sati to tell the impact of the Somras but Shiva misunderstood that they try to kidnap he. The Nagas were created because of the Somras. Brahaspathi has explained the effects of the Somras scientifically. He told Shiva as the Somras contained the Anti-Oxidants that make the human cells to divide into two till death. The cells naturally divide it but the body stops the multification of the cells at one stage. When a man takes too much of Somras the cells never stops dividing itself and it laid the reason to emerge as an extra part in the body. The people, who are with extra part and unnatural bodies, have been called as the Nagas. Bhrahaspati stated to Shiva that the river Saraswati was dried because too much of water was used to produce the Somras.

The Nagas are not allowed to enter into the Meluha. The King Dasrath, has presented the Nagas as evil to the Meluha and Shiva came to know that the Nagas as evil because Ganesh’s continuous attack with his shoulders. The wife of Dhasrath too had given birth to a Naga girl but Dasrath abandoned the child secretly. Kali wanted to know the truth behind it. So, she tried to kidnap her sister Sita to know the truth. Ganesh is the son of Sita. Dasrath too had left Ganesh in Panchvati secretly. The Nagas presented as the evil throughout India. So they lived in the forest called Pachavati. They had been helping the people around India that made the people to believe in Nagas but the majority of the people believed the Nagas as evil. Brahaspati says other’s perspective on the Nagas as:

And he was told that the Nagas were born with deformities as a result of the Somras. The Somras randomly has this impact on a few babies when in the womb, if the parents have been consuming it for a long period... But King Vasuki believed that the deformities caused by the Somras were the Almighty's way of punishing those souls who had committed sins in their previous births. (OV 14)

The king called Vasuki had told his people that the people, who have been born with deformities had done sins in their previous births and not only that but also he presented that they only hurt the other people out of jealous. So, he made the people to follow the principles strongly. The women who have given birth to the deformities had sent out the Meluha with their children and they are not allowed to come back to the Meluha not only that but also the women who have given birth to the stillborn babies were not allowed to speak with other in Meluha. They are named as the Vikrama. These type of women have to assemble at the centre place of the Meluha and offer the Puja to the Lord Agni (fire).

The evil of Somras were brought to the council of the Vayuputras but they denied accepting the truth. So, Bharahaspati and the uncle of Shiva planned secretly to destroy the evil but unfortunately Shiva's uncle was left the council. Bhrahaspati found powerless to fight against the decision of the Vayuputras council. So, he draped their plan. When Ganesh had told about the evil of the Somras to Bhrahaspati, he wanted to make use of him. So, he planned to destroy the Mount Mondar along with Ganesh. Ganesh had kidnapped Brahaspati and presented the world that he has killed him that made Shiva to take revenge on the killer of Bhrahaspati. When Shiva came to know the truth he was happy to have Ganesh as his son. Ganesh has proposed the evil of the Somras as:

Millions of lives would have been at risk. We are going to unleash toxic waste right through the heart of India. Almost as a message from the Parmatma, the ultimate soul, I was approached by Lord Ganesh around this time. He had formulated a plan, and I must admit his words made eminent sense. There could be only one possible solution. The destruction of Mount Mandar. (OV 24)

Dasrath and Bhrigru, the raj guru of Meluha secretly made a plan to produce the Somras in a hidden place. Sati came to know this thing through the speech of Daksha. Sati had informed about another production factory of the Somras to Shiva but she accepted that her father never told about the place to her. So, Shiva wanted to destroy Meluha in order to stop the production of the Somras. He has sent a proclamation by stating that the Somras as evil and

advised the people to stop using it and also his proclamation carried a warning that the people continue using the Somras will be killed by him. But, Daksha denied the proclamation of Shiva. So, Shiva announces a holy war against the Meluha. His proclamation carries the news as:

I have come to the conclusion that the Somras is now the greatest Evil of our age. All the Good that could be wrung out of the Somras has been wrung. It is time now to stop its use, before the power of its Evil destroys us all. It has already caused tremendous damage, from the killing of the Saraswati River to birth deformities to the diseases that plague some of our kingdoms. For the sake of our descendants, for the sake of our world, we cannot use the Somras anymore. (OV 119)

Dhaksha has invited Shiva to Meluha for the peace. On the other side, he planned to kill Shiva by the Egiptian assassins. Unfortunately, Sati wanted to visit his father because Shiva wanted to meet the Vayupatra's leader Gopal. So he made Sati to wait for him outside of the Meluha palace. But, Parvateshwar identified Sati and made his troops to kill the shoulders of Sati. Somewhat Sati was killed by the Egyptian assassins and she sacrificed her life for the truth.

The social media always presented the Somras as the Good one and which keeps the Gods as young but here, Amish Tripathi represented that the Somras may possess the good qualities but it carries a vastness of evil in itself. The Puranas and The Epics also presented the Somras (the drink of Gods) as good but Amish Tripathi somewhat proved that as evil. The writing style of Amish Tripathi is totally different from other writers in Indian English Writings. Re-imagining and retelling the mythology is not an easy thing. It needs the better understanding and analytical mind. The writings of Amish Tripathi made him to believe in Gods but other than that he believed in science for that he presented the scientific reason for announcing the Somras as evil not only that but also he gives the reason for Raavana's Pushbarakam and how it flies. He presented Shiva and Sati had become as God and Goddess for fighting against the evil.

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