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The Empowered Women Protagonists in The Shiva Trilogy of Amish Tripathi

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Abstract:

The women characters in the Shiva Trilogy are marvelous, eye-catching and immensely strong, leaving an indelible impact on the mind of the readers. The honor of being a catalyst in changing the flow of history can also be given to these women characters in the Shiva Trilogy. In this cathartic society where women are suppressed since ages, this fiction arouses radiance and a new fervour of morality and courage among women. The author can be credited for his fantastic and instrumental characterization of women in the tale. Amish Tripathi has portrayed the most famous and expert doctor in the garb of a woman, namely, Ayurvati even in those ancient times when this conventional society was highly prejudiced and male dominating.

Keywords:

Trilogy, loyalty, Hinduism, mythology, Somras, Naga

The women characters in the Shiva Trilogy are marvelous, eye-catching and immensely strong, leaving an indelible impact on the mind of the readers. Tripathi has elucidated his women characters in a full-fledged way which hold us till the last bit of reading is over. The honor of being a catalyst in changing the flow of history can also be given to these women characters in the Shiva Trilogy. In this cathartic society where women are suppressed since ages, this fiction arouses radiance and a new fervour of morality and courage among women. The author can be credited for his fantastic and instrumental characterization of women in the tale. Whether it is Sati, Kali, Veerini, Krittika, Anandmayi, Ayurvati or Kanakhala, every woman possesses immense strength of character, loyalty

and incredible courage. They stand up for the right and give no leverage to the wrong. In fact, it is these brave characterizations that make the men look weak in contrast to Shiva's heroic fight. His desperate act of revenge just manages to battle Sati's heroic fight in a losing battle.

Sati, is the ethereal beauty, gifted with an impeccable style and is a portrait of a goddess. Sati dominates the series of this Shiva Trilogy with the perpetual and a rare combination of beauty and wisdom. She is strong as well as humble at heart, a perfect picture of Hinduism. Sati, a brave and a gifted warrior is far away from fears on the battlefield.

".....She rode in on a chariot, guiding the horses expertly into the courtyard, while a lady companion by her side held on to the railings. Although her black hair was tied in an understated bun, a few irreverent strands danced a spellbinding kathak in the wind. Her piercingly magnetic, blue eyes and bronzed skin were an invitation for jealousy from the goddesses. Her body, though covered demurely in a long angavastram, still ignited Shiva's imagination into sensing the lovely curves which lay beneath. Her flawless face was a picture of concentration as she manoeuvred the chariot skilfully into its parking place. She dismounted the chariot with an air of confidence. It was a calm confidence which had not covered the ugly distance towards arrogance. Her walk was dignified. Stately enough to let a beholder know that she was detached, but not cold. Shiva stared at her like a parched piece of earth mesmerised by a passing rain cloud."

Here begins the love story of Shiva. He saves her life from a Naga attack in front of Lord Brahma's temple. Sati also fights bravely,



"..... In a flash Shiva drew his sword and stretched out his left hand protectively, to pull the object of his fascination behind him. She however deftly side-stepped his protective hand, reached into the folds of her angavastram and drew out her own sword. Surprised, Shiva flashed right back, acknowledging the unexpected yet providential partnership."

Sati expresses her deep gratitude towards Shiva for having saved her life. Being a true Suryavanshi she promises to help him whenever Shiva will need her. It is at this stage that Shiva wishes to live his whole life with Sati.

Krittika, the closest companion of Sati, always follows her like a shadow everywhere and is the best friend to her. Anyone will long for such an honest and trustworthy friend. In times of need, when Shiva is not around and Sati has to leave young Kartik on some important mission, she can always trust Krittika as his second mother. It is Krittika's loyalty and eternal dedication towards Sati that makes Shiva decide to name their child 'Kartik' as she had been a rock of support in Sati's life. Krittika also plays the role of a very loving and a caring wife of Shiva's best friend Veerbhadra.

"...The doctor and her nurses walked out of the house to greet Shiva. The doctor, a petite, wheat-skinned woman was dressed in a simple white cloth tied around her waist and legs in a style the Meluhans called dhoti. A smaller white cloth tied as a blouse around her chest while another cloth called an angavastram was draped over her shoulders..."

Amish Tripathi has portrayed the most famous and expert doctor in the garb of a woman, namely, Ayurvati even in those ancient times when this conventional society was highly prejudiced and male dominating. Doctor Ayurvati is an expert medical practitioner and well known in India for her special skills and instructions which helps her patients to gain physical as well as moral strength. No matter what the situation is, she serves humanity scrupulously. Her timely guidance and alertness

always indulges her with Shiva's convoy.

The beautiful Princess of Ayodhya, a passionate dancer, Anandmayi has been described as extremely self-willed and intellectual. She possesses flawless aims with her knife. She is a true Chandravanshi whose heart automatically fights for the weak and serves them the rightful position. On the occasion of the customary celebration of Kartik's birth, she agrees to partner Uttanka, the progeny of a famed Magadhan brigadier, whose military career is cut short by an injury which leaves him with a severe hump on his right shoulder. Everyone thinks that he will be insulted on the stage. But, on the contrary, the Princess of Ayodhya has choreographed their dance well, changing the ancient rules of that particular act, in order to suit Uttanka's restricted arm movements. When she gets a huge applause, she gives the whole credit to her dance partner. Anandmayi tries to court General Parvateshwar every time she get a chance and finally persuades him to get married to her. In the end, she serves him as a dutiful wife and sacrifices her life with him in Devagiri.

Kanakhala is a loyal and a dutiful Prime Minister of Meluha, who serves her nation strictly abiding by all laws and codes set by Lord Ram. She is a woman of great wits whose suggestions always influences Emperor Daksha to take important decisions in favour of Meluha. When she comes to know about the trap laid by the Emperor and Vidyunmali to murder Shiva on the name of Peace Conference signed by her, she feels so helpless and guilty that she commits suicide.

Queen Veerini, the most powerful mother at heart, is a very humble, loving and a sweet lady always devoted to her family. When she gives birth to twins, she accepts her fortune with Sati, the most beautiful and Kali, a deformed child. But due to her husband's false and showy nature, she has to renounce Kali in Maika only. Though she tries to persuade Daksha to give up the fame of his family's royal background, he is reluctant as he doesn't want any such blot on his genes when he will sit

पुरवणी अंक-१३. डिसेंबर २०२३

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on the throne.

Kali, an embodiment of inimitable courage and bravery represents an altogether different guise of female character in the Shiva Trilogy. She is the Naga Queen, later disclosed as Sati's twin sister. When we read about her, we get an impression of the mythological Goddess Kali.

"...Her entire torso had an exoskeleton covering it, hard as bone. There were small balls of bone which ran from her shoulders down to her stomach, almost like a garland of skulls. On top of her shoulders were two small extra appendages, serving as a third and fourth arm..."

She is inimitably brave and fierce. She has the strength of butchering thousands of enemies to protect the weak. Therefore, when she comes to know the truth about Sati, she gives up practically everything to help Shiva achieve his mission to destroy Somras. Though her looks confirms her fearsome nature, she has a tender and an affectionate heart within.

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