

# Inconspicuous Multi-personality of Raavan in Amish Tripathi's *Raavan - Enemy of the Aryavarta*

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**Abstract**—A few novelists have re-interpret and fusing mythical events with contemporary issues such as political and cultural bias, namely Amish Tripathi, Ashwin Saghi and Ashok Banker who have fused mythologies with current social theme with an effective manner. They have discovered primary sources from myths and have employed them efficiently and artistically. It is introduced a new taste in contemporary literature and added more serious issues. Amish Tripathi has employed dynamically the myth structure in his all novels. By using mythical themes, he wants to construct the society in a moral and ethical way; many contemporary critics and writers had taken such approach in their works. In a critical situation, the society is facing a chaos and tension in which their problems would have solved by the mythological dreams. Amish has succeeded in fusing social, cultural, geographical, historical and religious facts, though his characters worked towards the welfare of the society. The research paper explores mighty Raavan's character and his adventures in terms of scholaristics attitudes towards magic, music, piracy, war, fatherhood, motherhood, business, kingship, husband hood, virtue and heroism.

**Index Terms**— Amish Tripathi, Mythology, Magician, Pirate, Pirate, Raavan, Scholar, Warrior, Righteous father and king.

## INTRODUCTION

*"Myths are nothing but jumbled memories of a true past. A past buried under mounds of earth and ignorance" (112).*

Amish Tripathi uses the writing techniques as such hyperlink and multi-linear narratives. He covers his book with thrilling actions, betrayals, intense enmity and contemporary issues. He clearly explores to answer the questions like what is an evil. What is an ideal society? And who is real hero in Indian myths?

However, he creates the main characters in order to search the truth and power.

*Raavan - Enemy of Aryavarta* is a mythological fiction published in 2019. It is one of the Ram Chandra series after *Scion of Ikshvaku* (2015) and *Sita - Warrior of Mithila* (2017). It has been narrated the chronicles of the life of the mighty Raavan since Sita's kidnapping. So far world mythology depicts morals, immoral, good, evil, *dharma*, *adhama* and life style of people to the society. Likewise, Amish did the same. Great Indian epic is *Ramayana*; it projects Raavan as a crucial villain. The research tries to establish that Raavan, a man of discipline, is a great hero. Raavan, a great king of Lanka and a faithful devotee of Lord Siva, had overpowered *Devas* and had immense knowledge about six *Shastras* and four *Vedas*.

Beyond, 3400 BCE, the novel begins with Mighty Raavan, who kidnapped poor Sita to take avenge for his half sister Shurpanakha, who was humiliated by the Ayodhyans'. Raavan and his brother Kumbhakarna sat inside the *Pushpak Vimaan*,

*The king of Lanka was quiet, his body tense. He clutched his pendant tightly- the pendant that always hung from a gold chain around his neck. It was made of the bones of two human fingers, the phalanges of which were carefully fastened with gold links. (23)*

Analytically from the history, the brotherhood of Raavan and Kumbhakarna is greater than the brotherhood of Ram and Lakhsman, but it forgets to portray mighty Raavan and Kumbhakarna brotherhood was beyond these Ayodhyans'. Since the childhood Raavan has been suffering not only by physic but also a true love; that entire situation Kumbhakarna was the only person who accompanied with him. The following context would explore the

true love of brotherhood. Kumbhakarna was a naga, his resident where, in a terrific situation, tribes are planned to kill Raavan's mother and new born baby (Kumbhakarna). However, they were protected by Raavan's bravery. Raavan had good practices in sword, knife and saves his brother and mother.

*My sword is long enough to cut through your abdomen and slice your spinal cord. I have practiced on animals. Even human bodies. No doctor will be able to save you. Just give me my baby brother and I'll let you go. (42)*

Kumbhakarna was a good brother. He supports Raavan and at the same time he warns Raavan if he goes wrong. He taught dharma and adharma to Raavan. "No, Dada. I am the one who has given you nothing but trouble since my birth. I am alive because of you. And I will die for you, Kumbhakarna said, his voice edged with emotion" (25). Kumbhakarna was the true and intellectual brother to Raavan. A few circumstances Raavan became more furious and allow to commit adharma, but Kumbhakarna all the time notice his brother and darely warns him. It is a true example of their brotherhood. "And I am Kumbhakarna, Dada. Nobody in this world loves you as I do. And my job is to stop you from committing a great sin" (199).

Without the darkness, light has no purpose- Raavan has been celebrated as the most villainous character. However, people tend to ignore that the same Raavan was the most admirable and fascinating Hindu mythological character. The scholar Raavan was portrayed as a painter, musician, and poet. He was credited as the greatest poet and musician of his times for his composition the *Rudra Stotra*, which he created to honour lord Siva. He had immense knowledge in Vedic Shastra, Astrology and Ayurvedic studies. In the span of his life, Raavana authored two well known scriptures namely *Raavana Samhita* and *Arka Prakasham*. Upon the request of his wife, Mandodari, he composed *Kumar Tantra*. Raavan's *Samhita* was most acclaimed textual compilation where Raavana has shared his astrological knowledge in a descriptive form.

Raavan had a secret chamber, it is located in Gokarna and the walls were length. The chamber was occupied by various instruments: a majestic *Rudra Veena*, a

tabla, dhol, damru, thavil, sitar, chikra, shehnai, flute and chenda. He was a great magician and had a vast knowledge about these instruments. Apart from that he had invented an instrument, which was kept on a gold-plated-Hatha, later it was renamed as a *Raavanhatha*. Moreover, he was a great painter. He painted a number of paintings about his secret lover 'Kanyakumari'. Raavan was painted that girl from childhood to woman.

*It was that of a girl. A girl no older than eleven or twelve. A round face. Fair-skinned. High cheekbones and a sharp, small nose. Long black hair, tied in a braid. Dark, piercing, wide-set eyes and almost creaseless eyelids. Her body was clad demurely in a long red dhoti, blouse and angvastram. (72)*

Further, he was constructed a vast wood lined personal library. It was huge, and had more manuscripts; which contained collection of thousands of manuscripts. Moreover, he was a great poet. He was composed finest poems and his brother Kumbhakarna praised Raavan and appreciated his talents.

*I love it! Trust me, Dada, there will come a time when even the Mahadevs and Vishnus will quote this poem! Raavan laughed. "You really do love me a lot, kid brother... that I do! But seriously, Dada, you can play music, you sing, you write poetry, you are a warrior, you are wealthy, you are well-read, you are superior-intelligent. There's no one like you in the whole wide world! (85)*

Next, Raavan was a protector of Women. Hitherto, history wrongly projects that mighty Raavan was a weaker on woman by the name of poor Sita. But, in reality he was the man of women protector and he helps them in all to promote their lives. He rescued a small girl from brothel house. The following context explores the same. In chapter eleven, Kumbhakarana had a physical pleasure with a courtesan named Zabibi, while enjoying the courtesan's attention, he had noticed eight years girl. She was very young girl who served him alcohol and food. She asks help to Kumbhakarana, her eyes filled with tears and reveals her trouble as 'with towards written on it, in a childish hand written. He handed the note to Raavan. Raavan read it aloud. "help me" (111).

After a long discussion and argument, Raavan wants to rescue the girl and reached Vasantpala. For a few years, the girl has been often tied up and tortured to get physical pleasure like sex. Raavan gave one hundred gold coins to Vasantpala and save the girl. However, he wants to punish her father for torturing the small girl. Raavan reached the girls' father house and he noticed that her father wore an expensive silk dhoti and a thick gold chain which reveals that her father was living sophisticatedly by sending or selling his daughter to brothel house. Raavan was hitting him squarely on the nose and ordered his guardians to tie him up in a tree. Raavan gave a knife to the little girl. Raavan pointed out three parts of her father's body for her choice in order to strike him. Head, chest and abdomen are the parts. She stepped forward and stabbed her father. She had inflicted nearly twenty five wounds on his body. Her father was died. By one of this act he rescued the girl.

*And I will protect you.*

*What is your name? He asked*

*She finally spoke. In a childish voice that was disconcertingly calm. 'great Iraiva, my name is Samichi. (116)*

Secondly, Vedavati, who was once Kanyakumari and married to Prithvi, a local businessman. Raavan and Kumbhakarna went to Vaithyanath village in order to get divine vision from Vedavati. She was in the last stages of pregnancy. Raavan and Vedavati were discussed a long philosophical speech like Dharma, Adharma and Karma, "Vedavati put both her hands on Raavan's head and blessed him. May you always live in dharma, may dharma always live in you" (142). And Raavan gave the hundi- fifty thousand gold coins to promote her village to build hospital, library and water dam. The above references Raavan might be called the protector of women.

Third, the paper would try to analyze, he was a magnetic businessman. Raavan was a mighty pirate; first he had worked at deck. By his hard work and courageous behavior, he was popular among the seafarer. At the age of seventeen, he was a gigantic, powerful and wealthiest trader in Lanka. Apart from that, he was a mighty businessman by his courage and made robbery from Nalaban Island. At the age of twenty two, he was ruled over the Indian Ocean and

introduced a variety of key strategies. He builds new ships and gradually builds a fleet of two hundred ships. Compare to other traders, he was the best trader because of his ships are very faster than others. He was the first man to introduce an army force for ships in order to protect materials, profits and workman. And he had tricks to destroy opposite trade ships without any witness, "he was taking delivery of five or six ships every month; an unprecedented happening that shocked the trading community all across the Indian ocean rim" (99).

Raavan had a good humour sense also; being a businessman must have a humour sense too. He had it well. In chapter nine, he loves a girl named kanyakumari but an unavoidable situation she married a man name called Prithvi, a local businessman. By getting this information Kumbhakarna goes very anxious, but Raavan said "don't be stupid, Kumbha? Raavan scoffed. We will not kill her husband. How can we? He's the Kanyakumari's husband. We'll buy him off" (103). In chapter ten, Raavan taught-importance of money, world reality, how to get honour, success and self development to Kumbhakarna.

*Raavan smiled. Always remember why we are strong. Why we are successful. Because we don't fool ourselves that we are honorable or good. We know who we are. We accept it. We embrace it. That's why we beat everyone. That's why we will continue to beat everyone. (110)*

Raavan became the most powerful businessman by trading and his wealth increased enormously. Meanwhile, he had an idea by reducing the share to Sapta Sindhu. He welcomes the war. After a long argument between mighty Raavan and Dashrath, the war was initiated. Raavan defeated the king Dashrath and became the master of the Sapta Sindhu. A scholarly dialogue between Raavan and Kumbhakarna about the war,

*Do you think we should have killed the emperor? Asked Kumbhakarna, taking a sip of wine and settling back in his comfortable chair. I did consider it; said Raavan, shaking his head. But I think its better this way. A quick death on the battlefield would have been blessing for him. If we had killed Dasrath, we would have turned him into a martyr. (178)*

Further, it shows Raavan was a potential king. Raavan became the powerful king of Lanka. Lanka by now had absolute control over the trade routes and every major part in the Indian Ocean. The kingdom glittered with riches and had come to be known as golden Lanka- with zero taxes, heavily subsidized living, free healthcare and education, twenty-four-hour water supply to house through lead piper, sprawling public gardens, sports stadiums, and concert walls and so on. The interesting thing is that there were no poor people such a way he ruled Lanka. People had been worshipping the mighty Raavan, who is thirty eight years old, as god and building temples for him. People are praising him greater than Vishnus and Mahadevs for his loyalty, manner, and discipline, honest and caring of the people.

#### CONCLUSION

*But of one thing there was no doubt: there was only one true power centre in Lanka, indeed in the entire Indian subcontinent, if not the world, and that was Raavan. And no one dared to confront Raavan. (199)*

Raavan was a chackravarthi; he had a great knowledge and wisdom. He had vast knowledge about politics, religion, trade and business. Apart from, he had a few qualities like *kam, manas, puthith* and *agankar*. The above reference signified that he was the courageous hero of the mythology – Ramayana. Contemporary Indian writing/writers try to show Indian social, economical, political, family values, cultural values, moral values, customs and Indians through their enormous writing. Such as Amish Tripathi also try to show his Indians by his mythological fiction and try to construct civilized Indian society through the myth by the name of Mighty Raavan. Amish wanted to reconstruct past and same way he did it.

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