

Role Of Karma In Amish Tripathi's *The Immortals Of Meluha*

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ABSTRACT

Amish Tripathi is an Indian English novelist who is renowned for writing the *Shiva Trilogy*. The first book of the Shiva Trilogy is *The Immortals of Meluha*. The aim of this paper is to explore the role of Karma and the importance of it in the first novel of the Shiva Trilogy.

The novel *The Immortals of Meluha* centers on a simple man who becomes the Mahadev because of his karma. Karma is one of the crucial concepts that have been laid emphasis on. Amish has plotted the story in such a way that the protagonist of the novel transforms from a simple man to the God of Gods because of his Karma. The novelist tries to prove that it is Karma which decides the fate of people. There is a brief account of Vikarma men and women in this novel.

The term Vikarma means the carriers of bad fate. The Meluhan city has its own practices and one among them is the treatment of Vikarma people. They are those who undergo punishment in their present birth for the sins they have committed in their previous birth. They are expected to realize that their sufferings resulted from their own karma and it's their duty to accept and tolerate the sufferings. Only by doing this they can get rid of their past sins. Both vikarma men and women have different order of penance. There are certain rules to be followed by vikarma women. Every month they have to pray for forgiveness to Lord Agni, They are not allowed to get married, otherwise their bad fate should be shared by both, They are not allowed to touch someone who is related to them in noway.

The Meluhans deeply believed in the concept of Karma. They are of the view that if a person suffers from bad fate, it is understood that they have committed sins in their

previous birth. They also believed that a person's caste is decided only by his karma and not his birth or sex. Such was the importance given to the concept karma.

The concept karma is such a wonderful force for human lives. If people believe in karma, the chance for sins is less. They will also be adhering to the codes of humanity. When we are aware of our deeds to others our future is kept safe. This very idea will prevent people from entering into or choosing wrong paths in life. If a person is focused on his own welfare, he will not do wrong to people. The concept of karma is very crucial in Hinduism. In Tamil Literature also there is a strong account of Karma stated by Thiruvalluvar in one of his Thirukkural.

Karma is a boomerang is a sentence which should be borne in mind by human beings. One never realizes the importance of it unless one is given the fruit or thorn it bears. Naturally the one who is good to others will be gifted with the fruit and the one who does wrong to others will have to walk on the thorns given by his karma. Life becomes fruitful when the role of karma is understood by people. It does not cost to be fair to people.

Amish in his novel has emphasized on its importance by the theme itself. The protagonist Shiva was not able to accept Meluhans' concept of vikarma which he felt was unfair and he did not believe in karma but it was he who with his own determination and with the support and confidence of his dear ones, resolved to destroy evil and succeeded in it. His own succession is a fruit of his own karma. Amish through his Shiva Trilogy have such a lot of things to teach the readers. When the readers read the novel itself such good qualities are learnt by them.

Works Cited :

Tripathi, Amish. *The Immortals of Meluha*. Chennai: Westland Ltd, 2010. Print