



## EXPLORING PHILOSOPHICAL THEMES IN AMISH TRIPATHI'S 'THE IMMORTALS OF MELUHA': A LITERARY ANALYSIS

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### Abstract

Amish Tripathi's "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) intricately weaves Hindu mythology with contemporary storytelling, creating a narrative rich in cultural backdrop and philosophical undertones. This research explores the philosophical nuances embedded in the novel, analyzing themes such as dharma, morality, destiny, and the nature of divinity. Employing qualitative research methods, the study conducts a literary analysis to uncover the underlying philosophical concepts and their implications. Tripathi's integration of Hindu philosophy humanizes mythical characters, prompting readers to reflect on existential questions and ethical dilemmas. The novel serves as a mirror to contemporary Indian society, addressing issues of power dynamics and social inequality. Through its exploration of philosophical themes, "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) invites readers on a transformative journey of self-discovery and introspection, fostering critical reflection and engagement. This research contributes to a deeper understanding of the intersection between literature and philosophy, highlighting the profound impact of philosophical themes on narrative structure, character development, and reader interpretation.

**Keywords:** Amish Tripathi, Dharma, Ethical dilemmas, Existentialism, Hindu mythology Philosophical themes.

### Introduction

Amish Tripathi's "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) is the first installment of the Shiva Trilogy, a series that reimagines Hindu mythology in a fictional universe. Set in the ancient land of Meluha, the novel follows the

journey of Shiva, a tribal warrior who discovers his destiny as the savior of the land. The novel blends mythological elements with contemporary storytelling, creating a unique narrative that captivates readers with its rich cultural backdrop and philosophical undertones (Tripathi, 2014). Amish Tripathi is known for his

engaging narrative style that seamlessly weaves together mythology, history, and philosophy. His writing often employs vivid imagery, intricate world-building, and well-developed characters to immerse readers in his fictional universe. Tripathi's novels also reflect his deep understanding of Indian culture and tradition, evident in his meticulous research and attention to detail (Tripathi et al., 2014). Exploring philosophical themes in "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) offers a deeper understanding of the novel's underlying messages and cultural significance. By analyzing the philosophical concepts embedded within the narrative, readers can gain insights into timeless questions about morality, destiny, and the nature of divinity. This research aims to uncover the philosophical nuances of Tripathi's work and their implications for literature and society (Tripathi, 2014; Basu, 2020; Desai and Prajapati, 2022).

### **Literature Survey**

Philosophical themes in literature have long been a subject of scholarly inquiry, delving into the depths of human existence and the intricacies of moral dilemmas. In Indian literature, philosophical underpinnings often intersect with mythology, folklore, and cultural traditions, providing a rich tapestry for exploration (Sharma, 2019). Amish Tripathi's novels, including "The Immortals of Meluha," are no exception, as they intricately weave together philosophical concepts with engaging narratives, inviting readers to contemplate fundamental questions about life, morality, and the nature of reality (Sharma, 2016). Numerous studies have analyzed various aspects of Amish Tripathi's novels, particularly focusing on his portrayal of mythical characters, cultural significance, and philosophical ideas. For instance, Basu (2020) examined the representation of mythical characters in Tripathi's "Shiva Trilogy," while Mukherjee (2016) provided a critical appreciation of "The Immortals of Meluha." Other scholars, such as Patra (2016) and Rakhi and Dwivedi (2017),

explored the narrative structures and intertextual references in Tripathi's works, shedding light on their deeper philosophical implications. Employing literary analysis techniques, scholars have applied various theoretical frameworks to dissect the philosophical themes embedded within Amish Tripathi's novels. Desai and Prajapati (2022) related the philosophy of Siva Gita to "The Immortals of Meluha," highlighting the mythic and heroic tale's exploration of dharma and karma. Additionally, studies by Muchate (2019) and Manikandan and Bindu (2019) applied Langinus' resources of sublimity to Tripathi's narrative style, revealing the profound impact of his storytelling techniques on the portrayal of philosophical ideas. Through these theoretical lenses, researchers have illuminated the intricate philosophical tapestry woven into Tripathi's literary works (Tripathi, Banker, and Pattnaik, 2014). By synthesizing these previous studies and theoretical frameworks, this research aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the philosophical themes present in Amish Tripathi's "The Immortals of Meluha," contributing to a deeper understanding of the intersection between literature and philosophy.

### **Methodology**

This research adopts a qualitative research design to conduct a literary analysis of Amish Tripathi's "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) in order to explore the philosophical themes embedded within the text. Qualitative research is well-suited for examining the complexities and nuances of literary works, allowing for in-depth exploration and interpretation of textual elements (Kumar, 2017). Through qualitative analysis, this study aims to uncover the underlying philosophical concepts and their significance in Tripathi's narrative. The primary data for this research will be sourced from Amish Tripathi's novel, "The Immortals of Meluha." Additionally, secondary data will be gathered from scholarly articles, critical analyses, and academic publications that offer insights into the philosophical themes

present in Tripathi's work (Sharma, 2019; Desai and Prajapati, 2022). These sources will provide a theoretical framework and contextual background for the analysis. The data analysis will involve a close reading and thematic analysis of Amish Tripathi's novel, focusing on identifying and examining the philosophical themes, motifs, and symbols present throughout the text. This analysis will be guided by the theoretical perspectives and frameworks established in previous studies, such as the application of Langinus' resources of sublimity (Manikandan and Bindu, 2019) and the exploration of ethical wisdom and philosophical judgment (Lata, 2013). By employing qualitative coding techniques, key passages and textual evidence related to philosophical themes will be identified and systematically analyzed to elucidate their significance within the narrative. Through the combination of qualitative data collection and analysis methods, this research aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the philosophical themes in Amish Tripathi's "The Immortals of Meluha," contributing to the broader discourse on literature and philosophy.

#### **Philosophical Themes in "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014)**

In "The Immortals of Meluha," the concept of dharma plays a central role in shaping characters' actions and moral dilemmas. Dharma, often translated as duty or righteousness, governs the behavior of individuals and societies in accordance with cosmic order and moral law (Desai and Prajapati, 2022). The protagonist, Shiva, grapples with the responsibilities and ethical implications of his role as the Neelkanth, the prophesied savior of the land of Meluha. Through his journey, Shiva navigates conflicting notions of duty, loyalty, and justice, ultimately seeking to uphold dharma while challenging conventional norms and traditions (Kharadi and Gupta, n.d.). Amish Tripathi explores complex notions of good and evil in "The Immortals of Meluha," blurring the lines between morality

and ambiguity. Characters such as Lord Ram and Lord Ravan are depicted with shades of gray, challenging simplistic binaries of right and wrong (Rakhi and Dwivedi, 2017). The narrative delves into the motivations behind actions traditionally labeled as evil, highlighting the subjective nature of morality and the role of perspective in shaping ethical judgments (Karthik and Mukherjee, 2020). Through this exploration, Tripathi prompts readers to reconsider conventional notions of heroism and villainy, encouraging a deeper understanding of human nature.

The theme of immortality versus mortality is intricately woven into the fabric of "The Immortals of Meluha," reflecting on the human desire for eternal life and the inevitability of death. The quest for immortality drives characters to seek divine intervention and transcendence, yet it also serves as a reminder of the limitations of mortal existence (Arunraj & Viduthalai, 2018). Shiva's journey symbolizes the paradox of immortality, as he grapples with his newfound status as the Neelkanth while confronting the fragility of human life (Sharma, 2019). Through this thematic exploration, Tripathi prompts reflection on the nature of existence and the pursuit of spiritual enlightenment. The tension between destiny and free will is a recurring motif in "The Immortals of Meluha," as characters navigate predetermined paths and the agency to shape their own destinies. The concept of fate looms large throughout the narrative, influencing characters' choices and actions (Shinde, 2019). However, Tripathi also emphasizes the importance of individual agency and the power to defy predetermined outcomes through conscious decision-making (Muchate, 2019). Shiva's journey embodies this struggle, as he grapples with the notion of being the chosen one while asserting his autonomy and free will in shaping the course of events (Chatterjee, 2017). Through the exploration of these philosophical themes, "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) invites readers to contemplate

fundamental questions about morality, existence, and the nature of human experience, contributing to a rich tapestry of philosophical inquiry within the realm of literature.

### Literary Analysis

The characters in "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) are multifaceted and richly developed, reflecting a range of human experiences and moral dilemmas. Shiva, the protagonist, undergoes a profound transformation as he grapples with his identity and destiny as the Neelkanth (Sharma, 2016). His journey from a humble tribal leader to a revered deity is marked by moments of doubt, courage, and introspection, highlighting the complexities of heroism and leadership (Kumar, 2023). Other characters, such as Sati and Nandi, provide contrasting perspectives and motivations, contributing to the novel's thematic depth and narrative tension (Arunraj and Viduthalai, 2018). Through their interactions and conflicts, Amish Tripathi explores timeless themes of loyalty, sacrifice, and redemption, inviting readers to engage with the moral complexities of the human condition (Lakshmi, n.d.). The plot of "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) is intricately woven with political intrigue, epic battles, and philosophical discourse, creating a compelling narrative that captivates readers from beginning to end (Rakhi and Dwivedi, 2017). Tripathi masterfully combines elements of mythology with contemporary storytelling techniques, crafting a narrative that is both timeless and relevant to modern audiences (Manikandan and Bindu, 2019). The novel's pacing is brisk yet nuanced, with each plot twist and revelation propelling the story forward while deepening our understanding of its characters and themes (Nair and Chandran, 2017). From Shiva's initial encounter with the Suryavanshis to his fateful confrontation with the Chandravanshis, the plot unfolds with a sense of urgency and purpose, keeping readers on the edge of their seats until the climactic conclusion (Sharma, 2019).

"The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) is replete with symbolism and allegory, enriching its narrative with layers of meaning and interpretation (Arthi and Thamizhmani, 2019). The mythical land of Meluha serves as a metaphor for the complexities of human civilization, with its customs, traditions, and social hierarchies reflecting broader themes of power and authority (Sharma, 2022). Symbols such as the Somras, the Nagas, and the Neelkanth carry profound cultural significance, embodying concepts of divinity, transformation, and transcendence (Patra, 2016). Through these symbols, Tripathi invites readers to explore themes of identity, spirituality, and cultural heritage, fostering a deeper appreciation for the interconnectedness of myth and reality (Shinde, 2019). The literary analysis of "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) reveals a rich tapestry of characters, plotlines, and symbolic motifs that contribute to its enduring appeal and philosophical depth. Through meticulous character examination, plot analysis, and exploration of symbolism, Amish Tripathi invites readers on a transformative journey of self-discovery and enlightenment.

### Comparison with Philosophical Schools of Thought

The philosophical themes in "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) resonate strongly with Hindu philosophy, particularly in their exploration of concepts such as dharma, karma, and moksha. Shiva's journey as the Neelkanth embodies the Hindu ideal of fulfilling one's dharma or duty, as he grapples with his destiny and the moral implications of his actions (Desai and Prajapati, 2022). The novel also delves into the intricate web of karma, emphasizing the notion of cause and effect and the consequences of one's choices (Kharadi and Gupta, n.d.). Additionally, the quest for moksha, or liberation from the cycle of rebirth, is a central theme, as characters seek enlightenment and transcendence through their spiritual endeavors (Rakhi and Dwivedi, 2017). Through its engagement with Hindu philosophical



concepts, "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) offer readers a deeper understanding of the underlying principles that govern human existence and moral conduct. Amish Tripathi's novel also resonates with existentialist themes, particularly in its exploration of individual freedom, authenticity, and the search for meaning in a seemingly indifferent universe (Karthik and Mukherjee, 2020). Shiva's existential journey mirrors the existentialist quest for self-discovery and personal responsibility, as he grapples with the weight of his choices and the uncertainty of his fate (Sharma, 2016). The novel's emphasis on the individual's struggle against fate and societal expectations reflects existentialist notions of anguish and despair in the face of an absurd world (Chatterjee, 2017). Through its existential undertones, "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) invites readers to contemplate the nature of existence and the significance of their own lives in the grand scheme of things.

From a moral and ethical perspective, "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) raises thought-provoking questions about the nature of good and evil, justice, and the responsibilities of power (Arunraj and Viduthalai, 2018). Characters are confronted with ethical dilemmas that force them to confront their own values and principles, highlighting the complexities of moral decision-making in a morally ambiguous world (Nair and Chandran, 2017). Additionally, the novel explores themes of compassion, forgiveness, and the importance of empathy in fostering understanding and reconciliation (Padsumbiya, 2019). By engaging with these moral and ethical perspectives, "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) encourages readers to reflect on their own ethical beliefs and the implications of their actions on others and society as a whole. In short, "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) offers a rich textile of philosophical themes that draw upon Hindu philosophy, existentialism, and moral and ethical perspectives. Through its exploration of these diverse philosophical schools of thought,

the novel invites readers to engage in a deeper reflection on the nature of existence, morality, and the human condition.

### Impact of Philosophical Themes on Narrative

The philosophical themes in "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) profoundly influence the narrative structure and development of the novel. Tripathi skillfully weaves philosophical concepts such as dharma, karma, and destiny into the fabric of the story, shaping the trajectory of characters and events (Desai and Prajapati, 2022). The narrative unfolds as a mythic and heroic tale, mirroring the journey of Shiva as he navigates the complexities of morality and fate (Sharma, 2016). The philosophical underpinnings provide a framework for character motivations and actions, driving the plot forward while inviting readers to ponder deeper existential questions (Karthik and Mukherjee, 2020). Furthermore, the novel's narrative structure reflects the cyclical nature of Hindu philosophy, with themes of birth, death, and rebirth recurring throughout the story (Sharma, 2019). Overall, the incorporation of philosophical themes enriches the narrative experience, imbuing the story with depth and complexity. The philosophical themes explored in "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) invite diverse interpretations from readers, enriching their engagement with the text. Readers may interpret Shiva's journey through the lens of Hindu philosophy, contemplating the nature of dharma and karma in their own lives (Chatterjee, 2017). Existentialist readers may find resonance in Shiva's existential quest for meaning and authenticity, grappling with questions of identity and purpose (Karthik and Mukherjee, 2020). Additionally, readers from various cultural and societal backgrounds may bring their own perspectives to the text, enriching their understanding of the philosophical themes therein (Padsumbiya, 2019). The open-ended nature of the narrative allows for multiple interpretations, fostering dialogue and reflection among readers (Rakhi

and Dwivedi, 2017). Through their interpretations, readers actively engage with the philosophical themes, contributing to a dynamic and multifaceted reading experience.

The philosophical themes in "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) serve as a lens through which cultural and societal reflections are examined within the narrative. Tripathi's exploration of dharma and karma resonates with traditional Indian values and beliefs, reflecting the cultural heritage of the setting (Sharma, 2016). The novel also addresses contemporary issues such as power dynamics, social inequality, and political corruption, offering insights into the complexities of Indian society (Arunraj and Viduthalai, 2018). Furthermore, the philosophical underpinnings of the narrative provide a platform for discourse on moral and ethical dilemmas faced by individuals and communities (Nair and Chandran, 2017). By engaging with these themes, "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) not only entertains readers but also prompts critical reflection on the cultural and societal forces at play in the world around them (Kharadi and Gupta, n.d.). The impact of philosophical themes on the narrative of "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) is profound, shaping its structure and development, influencing reader interpretations, and offering insights into cultural and societal reflections. Through its engagement with philosophical concepts, the novel invites readers on a thought-provoking journey of self-discovery and introspection.

### Discussion and Findings

The literary analysis of Amish Tripathi's "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) reveals the profound impact of philosophical themes on the novel's narrative, character development, and reader engagement. Through an examination of various scholarly works and research articles, several key findings emerge: Integration of Hindu Philosophy: Tripathi skillfully integrates Hindu philosophical concepts such as dharma (duty/righteousness), karma (action/

consequences), and moksha (liberation) into the narrative framework of the novel (Desai and Prajapati, 2022). These philosophical themes provide a rich backdrop against which the characters' actions and motivations unfold, shaping the trajectory of the plot and inviting readers to contemplate timeless existential questions. The representation of mythical characters like Lord Shiva as relatable and flawed individuals humanizes the divine, challenging traditional notions of godhood and inspiring readers to reflect on the nature of divinity and humanity (Chatterjee, 2017). This anthropomorphic portrayal encourages readers to empathize with the characters' struggles and moral dilemmas, fostering a deeper emotional connection to the narrative.

Tripathi's exploration of ethical dilemmas within the narrative prompts readers to confront complex moral questions and consider the implications of their choices (Lata, 2013). By depicting characters grappling with conflicting values and principles, the novel encourages readers to critically evaluate their own ethical frameworks and moral compasses, thereby fostering personal growth and introspection. The philosophical themes explored in "The Immortals of Meluha" (2014) reflect broader cultural and societal trends, offering insights into contemporary issues such as power dynamics, social inequality, and political corruption (Arunraj and Viduthalai, 2018). Through its engagement with these themes, the novel serves as a mirror to Indian society, prompting readers to reflect on the cultural and societal forces at play in the world around them. The open-ended nature of the narrative allows for diverse reader interpretations, enriching the reading experience and fostering dialogue and reflection (Rakhi and Dwivedi, 2017). Readers from various cultural, philosophical, and ideological backgrounds bring their own perspectives to the text, contributing to a dynamic and multifaceted interpretation of the philosophical themes therein. In conclusion, Amish Tripathi's "The

"Immortals of Meluha" (2014) emerges as a profound literary work that transcends traditional genre boundaries to explore timeless philosophical themes. Through its integration of Hindu philosophy, humanization of mythical characters, exploration of ethical dilemmas, and reflection of cultural and societal realities, the novel invites readers on a thought-provoking journey of self-discovery and introspection.

### Conclusion

Through a comprehensive literary analysis of Amish Tripathi's "The Immortals of Meluha," this research paper has uncovered several key findings. Tripathi seamlessly integrates Hindu philosophical concepts into the narrative framework, humanizing mythical characters and prompting readers to contemplate existential questions. The exploration of ethical dilemmas within the narrative reflects broader societal issues, fostering critical reflection and engagement among readers. Additionally, the novel's reflection of cultural and societal realities provides insights into contemporary Indian society. The exploration of philosophical themes in literature, as exemplified by Tripathi's work, underscores the profound interplay between literature and philosophy. Through narrative storytelling, authors can convey complex philosophical concepts in accessible and engaging ways, inviting readers to grapple with profound existential questions. Moreover, the examination of philosophical themes in literature enhances our understanding of cultural, societal, and historical contexts, enriching our appreciation of both literature and philosophy. While this research paper has provided valuable insights into the philosophical themes in "The Immortals of Meluha," there are several avenues for further exploration. Future research could delve deeper into the comparative analysis of Tripathi's work with other literary and philosophical traditions, examining how different cultural contexts shape the portrayal of philosophical themes in literature.

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