
**Beyond Good and Evil: The Courageous Life of the Mythical Character
Raavan in Amish Tripathi's *Raavan Enemy of Aryavarta***

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Abstract:

Literature merely reflects human existence and should inspire readers to live better. Indian Literature is a collection of works spread over thousands of years, including epics like *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata* and ancient scriptures like the Vedas and Upanishads. *Myth* is a narrative that clarifies a particular culture's values, history, or significance. The content varies depending on the culture. Fiction is the description of an imagined or created writing. Writing comes from the author's imagination, referred to as fiction writing. Indian writer Amish Tripathi is well known for his best-selling books based on Indian mythology. The character of Raavan in Amish Tripathi's *Raavan Enemy of Aryavarta* prominently reflects the topic of Courage. In the *Ramayana* retelling, Raavan is often considered a demon in Indian mythology. However, in Amish Tripathi's novel, Raavan is shown as a brave and versatile person. The novel highlights the chronicled life of Raavan until the time he kidnaps Sita and reveals Naga's secret. The paper focuses on the Courage of Raavan for various purposes such as art, trade, political skill, and exploration of war.

Keywords: Human Existence, Courage, versatility, Demon

Introduction

Literature is an extensive area of human expression that provides a broad perspective on the complex areas of human experiences, emotions, and intellect. It is a timeless script of knowledge, a mirror reflecting the details of society and the force behind both individual and societal transformation. Through Literature, people can use it as an instrument to explore the depths of human knowledge. Literature welcomes readers to set themselves on an exploration of self-discovery and empathy, whether through the profoundly moving lines of a poem, the involving story of a

novel, or the perceptive feedback of an essay.

The collection of written works by Indian authors that cover a variety of languages, genres, and historical eras is referred to as Indian Literature. It is a rich artwork comprising various literary traditions that capture India's psychological, cultural, and historical aspects. Indian Literature includes Ancient, Sanskrit, Regional, and Contemporary Indian Literature. The ancient Indian Literature, which includes the Vedas, Upanishads, *Mahabharata*, and *Ramayana*, is critical to Hinduism. Sanskrit is considered the traditional language of India. It has a rich literary history, including epics, dramas, and philosophical works like the *Bhagavad Gita*. The diversity of Indian Literature can be traced to several regional languages, each with unique literary traditions. For example, Tamil literature includes works like the *Silappatikaram* and *Manimekalai*. Contemporary Indian Literature consists of works by writers such as Soumya Mukherjee and Ravi Subramaniam and contemporary works exploring issues of culture, identity, and contemporary transitions.

A myth is a traditional story, often involving supernatural beings or events that explain a cultural group's beliefs, values, or practices. Myths are often rooted in a society's history, religion, or spirituality and serve various functions. It is also recognized as a collection of stories or beliefs, frequently enhanced situations. To comprehend, mythology is a discipline exploring narratives concerning deities, semi-divine beings, and legendary characters from various civilizations and their cultural backgrounds. Diverse narratives in Indian mythology have been transmitted across generations through oral tradition or by meticulously preserving the description. These tales, constituting the core of Indian mythology, serve as an engaging means for instilling curiosity about Indian Culture among the younger generation, encompassing native and non-native individuals.

Amish Tripathi, an Indian novelist regarded as an expert in mythological fiction, attracts readers with innovative scenarios based on ancient Indian mythology. Tripathi's literary works include engaging presentations and essays on various topics, such as mythology, religion, history, and socio-political challenges. He is regarded as a critical voice in modern Indian Literature, encouraging readers to dive deeper into the complex texture of Indian mythology while questioning traditional knowledge. Amish Tripathi's literary journey demonstrates the timeless power of storytelling and the tremendous influence of mythology on collective understanding. He continues to enhance the literary world with his innovative stories and thought-provoking ideas, attracting readers with his distinct combination of myth and fiction. His notable works are the *Shiva Trilogy*, which consists of three books. They are *The Immortals of Meluha*, *The Secret of the Nagas*, and *The Oath of the Vayuputras*. Beyond the Shiva Trilogy, he has also authored the *Ram Chandra Series*, which consists of four books. They are *Scion of Ikshvaku*, *Sita: Warrior of Mithila*, *Raavan: Enemy of Aryavarta*, and *War of Lanka*.

Courage is a complex trait that involves facing various challenges with bravery and strength. It is not just about being fearless but also having the strength to act despite fear. Studies have demonstrated that courageous people feel fear yet

decide to overcome it and take action. This quality helps individuals and inspires others to face their difficulties with Courage and determination. Courage, an essential human characteristic, allows people to face challenges, overcome fears, and positively impact themselves and their surroundings. It is demonstrated through daring, perseverance, and Courage in the face of hardship.

Courage has many physical, moral, emotional, intellectual, and psychological manifestations. Each kind of bravery enables people to overcome a wide range of difficulties and barriers, ultimately contributing to their development and improving humanity. Courage allows people to develop essential life and personal growth competencies, such as adaptability, self-awareness, confidence, empathy, honesty, leadership, thankfulness, and acceptance. These lessons can improve their general well-being and benefit those around them.

Amish Tripathi's rendition of the *Ramayana* is a fascinating and contemporary interpretation of the ancient Indian epic. The plot focuses on Lord Rama, a celestial prince who starts on a journey to save his wife, Sita, from under the rule of the evil king Ravana. Rama overcomes countless difficulties, wars, and moral quandaries along with his faithful close companions, including the monkey deity Hanuman and the wise sage Vishwamitra. Amish Tripathi's *Ramayana* provides a new perspective on this ancient story, making it easier to understand and welcoming for readers of all ages. There are several characters involved in *Ramayana*. Lord Ram, Sita, Raavan, Hanuman, and Bharata are the most important characters. Among all these characters, Raavan is only always portrayed as a demon. In the *Ramayana*, Raavan is often portrayed as the primary antagonist.

Raavan is the king of Lanka and a mighty demon who takes over immense magical powers and knowledge. Ravana is depicted as a ten-headed demon with a fearsome appearance, representing the forces of evil and darkness. Throughout the epic, Ravana is renowned for his arrogance, haughtiness, and disrespect for morality. By portraying Ravana as a demon, it emphasizes the contrast between good and evil, making it easier for readers and listeners to understand the story's moral lessons. Here, devils stand in the form of criminal behaviors that people must try to avoid, such as desire, greed, arrogance, and a lack of concern for the welfare of people around us.

The *Ramayana* presents Ravana as a demon, yet mythology makes him very courageous. The epic presents his heroism in several ways, highlighting the nuanced aspects of his character. A strong and brave monarch named Raavan once reigned over the ethereal country of Lanka, which lay far beyond the borders of the Indian subcontinent. He was the king of the powerful Rakshasas, a race of fearsome creatures with extraordinary strength and magical powers. Raavan was the most feared and renowned of his kind because of his incomparable bravery, intellect, and brilliance.

Raavan was born into a royal family and was raised to be a great leader from an early age. King Vishrava's father saw his son's potential and gave him an excellent education and training in battle, diplomacy, and the mystic arts. Raavan's mother, Kaikesi, a solid and independent Rakshasi, taught him the principles of bravery, persistence, and devotion to his people. Raavan's reputation for bravery expanded

greatly as he grew older. He was recognized for facing any problem that endangered his people or the world without fear. His Courage was challenged repeatedly, and he triumphed each time. One such occasion occurred when the heavenly gods, commanded by Lord Indra, decided to go to war in Lanka. With incredible heroism, Raavan led his army into battle and destroyed the gods, restoring peace to his kingdom.

Raavan's heroism went beyond the battlefield. He was also recognized for showing compassion to his people. He constructed magnificent palaces, gardens, and temples to ensure his people were comfortable and prosperous. His money was frequently distributed to needy people, demonstrating his boundless generosity. Raavan's Courage was more than just physical power. He was a master of the mysterious arts, with an extraordinary understanding of old spells and mantras. He created tremendous weapons and magical armor plates for himself and his troops, rendering them unstoppable in battle.

Raavan's unbelievable Courage inspired people to face their obstacles, providing hope and motivating them to overcome their worries through dedication and Courage. Raavan's Courage was a distinctive personality characteristic that influenced his life and destiny. His fearlessness in danger, eternal devotion, and dedication to his people make him an everlasting representation of Courage for future generations.

Conclusion

Raavan is considered to be a primary antagonist in the Indian epic *Ramayana*. He is frequently shown as a demon king, representing the evil powers in the narrative. The perception of Raavan among the younger generation varies. Some may see him as a symbol of power and intelligence, while others may view him as a demonic character due to his cruel actions. The portrayal of Raavan in modern adaptations of the *Ramayana*, including movies and television shows, can also influence their views. Overall, the young generation's perspective on Raavan is diverse and may be shaped by cultural, social, and personal factors.

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