



The Oath of the Vayuputras

Amish Tripathi

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ONLY A GOD CAN STOP IT.

Shiva is gathering his forces. He reaches the Naga capital, Panchavati, and Evil is finally revealed. The Neelkanth prepares for a holy war against his true enemy, a man whose name instils dread in the fiercest of warriors.

India convulses under the onslaught of a series of brutal battles. It's a war for the very soul of the nation. Many will die. But Shiva must not fail, no matter what the cost. In his desperation, he reaches out to the ones who have never offered any help to him: the Vayuputras.

Will he succeed? And what will be the real cost of battling Evil? To India? And to Shiva's soul?

Discover the answer to these mysteries in this concluding part of the bestselling Shiva Trilogy.

The Oath of the Vayuputras Details

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Author : Amish Tripathi

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From Reader Review The Oath of the Vayuputras for online ebook

Ramya Narayanan says

An unfitting end to a wonderful series. What I intend to imply by an unfitting end is that the entire novel disappoints. Not just the end. It does not feel like a book from the same person who wrote the fantastic "Secret of the Nagas" or "The Immortals of Meluha" before that. Amish left the readers on such a high after the 2nd book that he had to hit a home run with this one or else, it was doomed to fail. And fail it does!

For starters, the book is way too long! It could have easily been brought down to about 300 pages. Would have made it much less painful to read! All the secrets are revealed in the first 100 pages itself! Makes you wonder what else is going to come ahead! Sets one to expect more twists and turns in the point. However, the only thing that did come ahead was page upon page of unnecessary details! Yawwwwnnnnnn!!! It took me forever to get through the 200s (pages I mean).

The author's writing skills are reflected in the latter half of the book (say page 300+), but by then the damage has already been inflicted. I could not be convinced beyond that point. It sure gets interesting, making you want to read further. But that's it. It was not enough to make me get over the trauma of the 200s. The end is too filmy to say the least! I am really disappointed with the way the story has ended, after being shaped up so beautifully (with the previous 2 books).

It has all the elements of a typical Bollywood climax scene. A death, a fight scene, hero escaping unscathed, family scene, hero running off to find peace, follow the hero X years later. How typical! How predictable! I was expecting something new. Something else.

I would like to add that Amish is a skilled writer. I cannot allow one failed book to change that fact. His play of words and easy-breezy style of writing is still wonderful to read. There are some statements in the book that instantly captures one's attention. It is simple things written in a simple yet striking manner. My favorite line - "There is no wrong way to do the right thing". Wonderful!

The book is an abysmal end to a wonderful series. Some amazing characters, superb plots, great writing, fast paced – that is how I would like to remember the Shiva Trilogy. For those who have read and loved the first 2 books, this book would not change much. But yes, it surely leaves one wanting for something far better than what has been dished to us.

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Mith says

I am sad. Mr. Tripathi... *what happened?*

After the first two books, I had high hopes. The writing was good, the plot was good; it had *purpose* - "Evil" had risen in Meluha, Shiva had to stop it. Simple, yes? Throughout the first two books, we were given the

impression that evil, in the form of some not-so-nice people, was lurking in the shadows, ever-growing, ever-menacing, threatening to disrupt life as they knew it, and it must be stopped at all cost.

And then came the third book.

As soon as I started the book, I knew something was wrong. Instead of the story being about Shiva and his ultimate, glorious triumph over evil, we were being told that, suddenly, the balance between "Good" and "Evil" had been destroyed and that Shiva must rise to the occasion quickly and remove "Evil" and restore "Good" (All this was told over 50 or so pages with the words "Good" and "Evil" being thrown in my face about 20 times per page. It is safe to assume by the end of it, I was nursing murderous feelings towards the author/editor)

Only, turns out "Evil" is not a person, or even persons, but, in fact, is the Somras.

...

I know right? Ooooh, an elixir that gives you immortality and perfect health! **SO EVIL!!!!**

[image error]

(**EDIT** : See what I mean?)

A vague and half-assed explanation was given about how that though the Somras is beneficial to some, it can cause side-effects among others (Nagas, Brangas) and so, even though it started out as "Good", it has now (out of nowhere) been declared as "Evil" and must be destroyed. Actually, no, let me correct myself. It wasn't declared "Evil" out of nowhere. It was declared "Evil" only when Shiva came to the conclusion (THIS was out of nowhere) that Somras was "Evil".

Don't even get me started on the contrivances in this book. Apparently, it was all planned from the beginning that Shiva was going to be the Neelkanth. His Uncle had given him some drink when Shiva was a kid (which Shiva conveniently remembered *just now*) that would ensure that his throat would turn blue when he drank the Somras, which would happen only if he drank it **at the right time** (Was his uncle psychic?) and that "Evil" would be recognised, or something would be accepted as "Evil", ONLY when Shiva decided it so (Does this mean, he could have pointed at a rock on the ground and declared it "Evil" and people would have accepted it blindly?!)

The good thing is, Amish has Shiva think like the readers and question the credibility of this whole shebang. The bad thing is, Amish tries to explain it away with a feeble "everything happened exactly the way it should because the universe conspired it so". Ugh.

Let's talk about Kartik, Shiva and Sati's son, a bit here. In this book, we find him as a superior warrior, defeating even the likes of Ganesh; leading vicious, bloody battles ending in victories; preaching and counseling even wise men like Maharishi Brighu. Which should sound perfectly fine - history is rife with brave, wise men like this. My problem? **HE IS SIX F***ING YEARS OLD**

Ultimately, what was most disappointing about this book (I had put it down for two days and completely forgot to pick it up again, I was that unenthusiastic) was the terrible ending. (view spoiler)

I give up.

P.S - What oath? What Vayuputras? Holy misleading title, Batman!

Ashish Iyer says

The final instalment of the Shiva trilogy consumed me completely and invoked a profusion of emotions within. The first two volumes of Amish were testament enough for his writing prowess but he yet again proves his sheer writing brilliance in his third part of the trilogy. What really stands out is the seamless flow of the story line with all the characters whose prominence and dedication to a cause be it for or against the Neelkanth is loveable. The sheer expectation of reaching the end of this epic masterpiece kept me on the edge and motivated to read till the last word. And the unexpected turn of events in the end left me speechless.

Shiva, the destroyer of evil, finally has arrived at the conclusion and is on a mission to destroy what he believes is true evil. He needs the support of the Vayuputras but the tribe does not recognise him as their chosen Neelkanth. In spite of a strong support system including his wife Sati, sons Ganesh and Kartik along with his most ardent followers, he may not succeed without the backing of this tribe chosen by Lord Rudra. And when Shiva is on the verge of victory, he comes face to face with a tragedy leaving his existence, his very soul completely shattered.

Clearly, Amish has written these books with pure devotion and passion. Words fail me when I even attempt to describe this trilogy. I am grateful for the day I decided to read it. It has left me with more devotion, respect and adoration not only for the Mahadev but also for Lady Sati, Ganesh and Kartik.

Om Namah Shivaay!

Janakee says

A decent novel and a good enough series.

However... I died laughing when I read the following paragraph:

"The *Pashupati* was a pure nuclear fusion weapon, unlike the *Brahmastra* and the *Vaishnavastra* which were nuclear fission weapons. In a pure nuclear fusion weapon, two *paramanoos*, the *smallest stable divisions of matter*, are fused together to release tremendous destructive energy. In a nuclear fission weapon, *anoos*, *atomic particles*, are broken down to release *paramanoos*, and this is also accompanied by a demonic release of devastating energy."

What the hell is he talking about?

Paramanoos = atoms. They are not the smallest stable division of matter. Free electrons and protons exist.

And most of the time in fusion more than two atoms are fused together. But it gets even more ridiculous. Anoos = molecules. NOT atomic particles. So, when molecules (anoos) are broken down to release atoms (paramanoos), it's a chemical process, not nuclear fission. In actual nuclear fission, atoms (paramanoos) are broken down to release smaller atoms and atomic particles (eg neutrons).

Conclusion: Either nuclear physics worked differently in ancient times or the author didn't do his research. I believe it to be the latter case.

Riku Sayuj says

A funky mix of pseudo-science, pseudo-history and pseudo-mythology, The Oath of the Vayuputras marks a new low for this trilogy. Amish ensures that anyone reading this book will emerge with a thoroughly muddled conception of Indian mythology and pre-history. This would be a valuable asset when the movie comes out.

I had criticized the plot mechanism in my previous review by comparing it to an Amar-Chitra Katha. I have to take that back. Amar-Chitra Kathas were really good, in fact. No I would venture to say that the plotting, the characterizations and the dialogues are in the time honored tradition of the beloved saas-bahu serials of India. You cannot go wrong with that.

I clenched my teeth and read through this one. And guess what, the book ends with a threat that Shiva willing, there might be more!

PS. I have so many rants, especially factual ones. But unless someone wants to contest me about the virtues of the book, I am not going to bother.

PPS. The Star Progression for the trilogy = 3,2,1.

Amit Shetty says

A satisfying ending to a great saga

Let me be honest. When I heard that Amish was writing his third and final novel to the Shiva Trilogy, I was kinda relieved. Thinking that we would finally get some closure to Shiva's life, I greedily picked up the book and went through with it. Now as I have turned the final page of India's most successful series in recent times, I sincerely wish it had gone on just a bit longer.

The first 200 pages or so were quite boring and honest to God, I was planning to shut this book and place it in an already overcrowded bookshelf in a section I have called *I wish I hadn't*. Had this been a single book with no books before or after it, I would have done so without a second thought. But, due to the fun I had reading the previous novels, I knew I just had to get through with it, just hoping for the best. And so, I went on.

And, I haven't regretted doing so one bit, the story actually picked up, the moment I thought it had become bland and I was hooked. Lots of emotion, drama, action, war etc filled the 300+ pages. Saying any further will only act as a spoiler since there are a lot of twists and turns each linked to each other in some way or another.

Amish has definitely done a great job bringing closure to all the major characters in the trilogy. Couldn't have asked for anything less or anything more.

I would definitely love for Amish to continue writing such novels and entertaining us all the more. Amish, *Best of Luck* in advance for your future works, if any.

For the Indian reader, you can grab this book from [Flipkart](#) at a discounted rate of Rs.245 over the cover price of Rs.350.

Arpita says

I read all the three books back to back. Though I liked the first two books very much specially IOM, my expectations really grew many folds for the third one. I was really excited when I started 'The Oath of Vayuputras'. By the time I reached page no 91 (chapter#7) I closed the book and regretting that I ever started reading it. After gathering some courage next day when I resumed the reading I knew what to expect... sheer b***l sh*t. A big promise to be ended with a big thud and that's exactly what I got by the end of the book. Mr. Tripathi Amish, I am truly disappointed, shocked and heartbroken with 'The Oath of The Vayuputras', by the treatment you have given to the flow of the story, the characters, the discovery of 'Evil' and specially the main protagonist poor Mahadev (akka Shiva) himself. Mahadev's obsession to use the 'Pashupatiastra' (a nuclear weapon... pheww) to take revenge for killing of his wife made him sound so much like D graded hindi movies of 80's starring Dharmendra, I think he was tempted to use that famous dialogue as well 'kutte main tera khun pi jaunga'. The character of Shiva built-up so beautifully earlier to become "Mahadev", failed so miserably at the end by becoming a revengeful husband and seized for personal vendetta only. What a waste. The destroyer of evil became the destroyer everything else. Basically a promising hero becomes a zero.

I can still forgive the author for not being able to deliver a quality read in the final book which was promised in earlier two books, but please somebody please make him to rewrite the chapters 46 to 53 and erase the chapter 54 completely, that was a horrible, lame, sad and uninspiring portrayal of a hero of that stature.

The narrative of events and specially the surroundings sometime are too lengthy and boring. The direct usage of the terminologies such as oxygen, antioxidant etc. (which came into exist during 18th century AD only) made me really irritated throughout the reading. He should have used some similar references from Sanskrit (pran-vayu for oxygen, antah-upayachak for antioxidant etc.) or at least he could have created new terminologies but I guess the author wanted an easy way out and ignored the demand of authenticity of language and terminologies that is required in writing such huge and complex subject.

One last thing to add, why in name of holy lake the book is named 'THE OATH OF VAYUPUTRAS'???

Manu says

"Lord Ram, have mercy!" on those who attempt to read the third installment. It was never the literary genius

of the author that made me continue reading the trilogy after The Immortals of Meh. Like I'd mentioned in my review of the book, I thought there was some imagination at work. The trend continued in The Secret Nag (yes, I'm irritated enough to play with the titles) and there was some effort in polishing the language. All of this meant that Book 3 had to be read, but what a horror it turned out to be!

That damn phrase I quoted in the beginning has appeared so many times in this book that it must have easily hiked the page count by at least 20! It is one of the many torture devices the author has skilfully used. It also partially explains why this book is about 560 pages when the earlier two gave up in their attempts to touch 400. Partially, because the rest is accounted for by Amish attempting to take himself seriously as a literary figure. Nothing else can explain the deluge of prose that fills the book. It easily lives up to the 'Vayu' in the title - full of gas!

In the non-existent plot, Shiva does his version of Around the Sub-Continent in 80 days but finds time to romance his wife and exhort his sons with phrases like "Give them hell". Oh yes, I have used exact words! If that weren't enough, most of the book is devoted to intricate war strategy that caused me to think whether Amish wants to be given military command in real life! I do think that's less dangerous than what he's doing now! In the last few pages of the book, Amish applies his final torture mechanism - making an attempt to retrofit (his) mythology with history - not just Indian, but Tibetan as well. The Dalai Lama would stop reincarnating if he read this section! The strengths (if any) of the first two books were the plot and the pace of the narrative. Both of them apparently died an untimely death at the end of book 2.

What makes me truly afraid is the possibility that this will be a reference point for Hindu mythology (fiction) in say, another 15 years! That's very scary! As per Amish, true evil creeps up on us slowly. Sometimes, it's in the form of books!

Harish Challapalli says

"The oath of the vayuputras" can be termed as the best and the most probable conclusion for this epic series. Author was successful in blending his fiction with the mythology. All the characters were narrated with a great precision and the sub plots, though a fictitious work, were very close to the actual legend. This requires a thorough research and extreme intelligence to present together.

Speaking about this concluding book, Amish was successful in deciphering all the loose ends and leaving some to the imagination of the reader. Certain chapters in the book suddenly make your eyes go wide and say "Wooow!!" The narration was very shrewd and the language was as pure as the intentions of the author. The pace of the narration will make your eyes and fingers run across the pages and u never know where u landed but still connected with the plot.

The description of a few places and action sequences will be beyond any reader's wild imaginations. There were times when I felt "is this what I know or is it the author's version", but still it didn't stop me from going ahead. Every single chapter grabs your attention and every single page makes your eyes glued to itself. I am completely satisfied with the way things went and no complaints. To summon in one phrase I can say that this book is "ABOVE AMAZING".

Shiva trilogy can be named as the best literature ever, modern India has witnessed. Amish must be a very brave and a genius person for choosing a mythological fiction for his work. Amish jii, u wrote an epic.

I can proudly say that he has got the intelligence of JK Rowling and the vision of JRR Tolkien. Hence I have no qualms to rate Shiva Trilogy equally competent or slightly higher than "Lord of The Rings" trilogy and "Harry Potter" in terms of almost everything.

Gomati says

Amish has maintained the flow..the same amount of excitement, drama, action and most importantly the story line. Fantastically written and wonderfully woven with facts and myths that difficult not to appreciate it. What I most enjoyed were the discussions between Lord Gopal and Shiva. They were very simple yet held a lot of meaning. The discourses were logical and rational. The introduction of the Vayuputras and their connection to the story is so beautifully done. The whole scene looks so real and plausible. Evil has been explained in such a novel manner that it did not look scary or overwhelming, just something too obvious which no one noticed. Am in awe of Sati..she is what a woman should be..could be..if the man allows her to be herself. Daksha is the perfect caricature of the present day rulers..absolutely self involved and selfish, to the extent that they consider the others around them as totally insignificant. Loved the book. Loved the narration.

Pri says

When I first read an excerpt of "Immortals Of Meluha", I fell in love with the book. The two books were really wonderful. The part I loved the most was the love between Sati and Shiva.

There were many questions that was left unanswered.

1. Kartik is 6 years old, but he acts older. There's no explanation for his behavior.
2. The ending of the 2nd book hinted that Shiva's uncle was a Vayuputra, but that connection was not explored till almost the ending of the book.
3. The Vayuputras were supposed to be aiding the Mahadev but they never contacted him (view spoiler)
4. Bhoomidevi's identity was not revealed.
5. Logic of Parvateshwar, he says that he fights for Meluha, but by opposing Shiva is he not indirectly harming Meluha. If Shiva had lost, then Meluha would have been doomed .
6. Vasudev Gopal just followed what others said. I thought he was supposed to be guiding Shiva.
7. In the series it is mentioned that Lord Rudra had lion like features, but there is no explanation for it. Lord Rudra was born near Pariha so he couldn't have been a Naga.
8. I had a problem with the ending. (view spoiler).

I hate the characters of Daksha and Bhrigu. Veerini should have stood up for her daughters.

The author has hinted at the end of the book, that he might write a book on Mahabharath. I'm looking forward to it.

Richa Sharma says

i cried and i cried.....i loved it.glimpses of love that shiva and sati shared, the anger and hatred that i generated against daksha and the loss that lord shiva had to embrace was hardcore painful.i fell in love with shiva, his entire charisma and beliefs since the very first day i read meluha, thereafter nagas and now the oath of vayuputras. In all amish is an avid bhakt and at the end of the day i have turned into an avid bhakt..thank u amish for enlightening me with his strong significance in my life.

Tushar Gargava says

Thrilling, tragic and heart-breaking are the three key-words that sum up my review even before it starts.

The Oath of the Vayuputras is the Final book of *The Shiva Trilogy* written by a now improved writer *Amish Tripathi*. His writing style has been abysmally poor in the first two books, but he picks up the art by this book. Yet, his lack of ability to smooth out his story stays visible.

He struggles to describe the events as they happen in a better format than what he'd used in the past pages. His introduction to characters is still blunt and the way they behave is easily predictable.

The story, though, as always, is brilliant. There are twists and turns that one can't see coming, unless one is learned on these subjects. I loved the way Amish built up the story to reach the crescendo. And the way he achieved it!

There are parts that will make you immensely sad, and parts that will break your heart and Amish provides no palliative care for the injuries, but I think he had no choice there. The story had to proceed the way it did.

The book is perfumed with war, death and hope. And a lot of knowledge!

In conclusion, I'll recommend this book for all the Indians who believe, or not in Lord Shiva for this is a fiction that will render a magical faith in your new favorite hero!

I enjoyed reading this book, and I think everyone else will too!

Poonam says

This book was an annoying conclusion to a series that started with wonderful promise. It was very overwritten, so much that it missed the biggest strength of the first book in series. That strength, according to me, a fast moving story. A story - not its writing style nor its dialog nor words chosen (to tell the story) since they were often cheesy, and at times cringe-worthy, sometimes picked up straight from yuppies' conference rooms. Story and a curiosity what was coming next is what got me going in the first place. True it was story was of mythology of Shiva, Sati, Bhadra, Nandi and encompassed the geographies that we only heard about in history books kept it interesting. But, it was the story that held the book together.

Third book has no simplicity of the first book that just focuses on telling a story. At 570 pages (at least 150 pages more thicker than previous books), Amish has wasted no opportunity to 'enlighten' us readers - nuclear

fission, nuclear fusion, their impacts, the yugas (treta, dwapar etc), age of Brahmin, Kshatriya etc etc. Descriptions of temple and battle formations - the one mentioned in the first book and one in the movie 300 so famously portrayed - became much bigger and all this information overload, often obstructing the flow of story.

All these descriptions - an overt attempt to be visual - made people say 'it was written with movie deal in mind'. I wasn't completely convinced, I felt I was missing something. And then it came to me - maybe the writer thought his book could one day be textbooks in school - considering what a source of knowledge that it is. Believe me, this book, does fit in to some curricula where kids study it just to pass through exams. Oh wait, but that can't happen yet, at least not in this decade since the Shiva in this book curses so often. 'Hell, yeah!'

P.S: I am still not sure which oath of Vayuputras did the title of the book indicate to. :|

Garima says

Time and Money vacuum. Sigh!

Madhur Shrimai says

A book with violence and sadness all over. But then It was another great book to read. The description Amish wrote of every incident makes you feel that it is all real. All the relation , connections and events all of them. These three sets of books has totally impressed me.

Good Job Amish

Vivek says

This was probably the most awaited book for me and expectations were really really high. However the book turned out to be a major disappointment.

While the first two books of the trilogy were indeed examples of creative best and became a part of my all time favorite collection, third book fell completely flat.

The author constantly emphasized that book covers the event that made shiva - Mahadev - The God of Gods? And what he did to achieve this title?

----- S P O I L E R A L E R T -----

He committed a crime against humanity (In his very own words). Proved all those who called him "fraud" and "not ready" right. And Why? Because of a personal grief. And not in a spur moment of anger. But preparation took its time. How was mahadev more stronger and better than the simpleton lady who decided to bear his anger for no fault of her, Or from Parvateshwar or from Kartik? Are we trying to justify (and

make is sound more realistic) his action because he was in grief. This is good more a lesser mortals. But Mahadev's actions is supposed to be a legacy for the future (in author's word). With great power comes great responsibility. And what was his legacy? Kill humanity for none of its fault? Fail those who explicitly trusted you (vasudeva and vayuputra)? Act like those blinded with rage and constantly commit mistake (like Kali)?

No I guess Shiva's real legacy is as a person who swallows poison for the good of mankind. And that is what made him God of Gods. Shiva destroyed Tripur which was an icon of evil and not a platform full of innocents people waiting for execution.

Ok Let us leave the lesson apart and come to execution? It leaves a lot of question unanswered.

Questions?

=====

1. Why was Gopal the chief of Vasudev's? He showed no wisdom of other Vasudev's we have seen in the previous two books. No guidelines. Rather he just followed the advises of likes of Tara and failed to stop Mahadev from its crime.
2. Why was this book called The Oath of Vayuputra? Why should a committee who is supposed to protect a society be at a distance of 6 months from it?
3. Mithara was supposed to be one without family. But what about current Mithra?
4. For which qualities the tribes of Nilkantha was headed by Veerbhadra? Because he was Shiva's friend or because he was individually capable like Gopal and Mithara? Or Shiva realized (by seeing Gopal and Mithara) you need not have any qualification to be the keeper of Mahadev's tribe?

Execution

=====

Story moved at a slow pace, with a lot of discourse in Physics and brutal war fare. Shiva blindly trusted Brihaspati's version (He was supposed to deduce himself. right?) He just made a guess about Amrit when he realized coin turning. But Foundation of his belief was the research of Brihaspati and reconfirmation by Vasudev? So where does his genius comes? He meets Vasudev Chief who will follow him only because Shiva reached his own conclusion (How?).

Parvateshwar decided to change sides. He expects Shiva will permit him. After all he is Mahadev. What he does? Keeps him in prison till Sati offers her wisdom.

Conclusion

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In the first two parts of the trilogy author made it fresh out of imagination. However, towards the end of this book, it appears, he felt the compulsion to relate it with events of Purana and religion and went on to suggest how and why Kartik became a war lord, 51 shakti-peeth and the list goes on.

Unfortunately in order to build a bridge between imagination and known events, the story went neither this way nor that way.

Sad... I waited for it for a long time...

Dileep says

Well, let me say I have mixed emotions. While I was pretty much hooked by 80% of the book, the rest disappointed me a lot. It starts with a roar and ends on a whimper. Clearly the character such as shiva deserved a better ending than the one he received. Some imaginations and conclusions were logical and brilliant, but overall I felt it was a neat endeavor which got a little ruffled towards the end. Keep your mind and heart open when you open the book. And control the sigh as you close it.

Dilip says

Finished one of the most awaited sequels of a book. For those who have read 1 & 2 , they need to finish the series by reading the final one. But, as a standalone book, I think Vayuputras couldnot reach the benchmark set by the earlier books.

For me, there were a few aspects of the first 2 which made it the must-reads. It took a not so often spoken about mythological story, made it into a fantasy fiction and cleverly interspersed with today's world without confusing you. It was fast paced and kept you on the edge throughout. There was an element of suspense upto the end which you had to know. And this is where the 3rd one failed.

This book had too much today : it spoke about nuclear fusion, fission, explained an atom bom explosion, spoke about neutrons and had all sorts of chemical and biological jargons used today.. Even though its fiction, the reader still need to connect to the mythical world and feel that you are within that. Amish takes the reader out of it too often and too directly which makes you come out of the world and get disinterested too many times.

The book broke the suspense far early and just made it into a war strategy book. That just killed the mood.

The book is long . With the suspense already gone, you just wanna get it to end. The twists intorduced in between were not enough to keep up the interest.. & the biggest issue was that the end was kind of an anti-climax. The book was all about war strategy and preparation and in the end, I am not flling up the blanks here for those who have not yet read it.

Dushyant Shetty says

Within the first 100 pages, I was haunted by the feeling that Amish Tripathi probably had the following written on a post-it that he stuck prominently to his screen when writing this book:

- 1) Tie up all loose ends!
- 2) Rationalize the legend and all actions around him! *Everything must be given a scientific reason, nothing can be attributed to supernatural/superhuman possibilities.*
- 3) Complete the story! *Since you promised a trilogy, discovering that there is enough material for a fourth book is a no-no!*
- 4) Retain the realism and passion of the first two books! *The Secret of the Nagas (Shiva Trilogy, #2) slipped a little bit from the high standards that The Immortals of Meluha set, so compensate... compensate!*

I think the author prioritized #1 so much, that he traded off some of the other priorities, with the end-result being that the book ended up a little flatter than the first two, and the overall effect was just a little disappointing. However, to the author's credit, to pull off a story of this quality is in itself a huge achievement, and the Shiva series raises the bar higher than any Indian fiction has achieved in the fantasy/mythology space in a long time.

Part of the disappointment for me, is due to my background as a science fiction fan. The distinction between quality sci-fi and pulp sci-fi is the plausibility of the fantastic science described in various situations. I appreciate Amish Tripathi's commitment towards rationalizing the fantastic, but to the average scientific, some of the scientific stuff is even more far-fetched and implausible than the super-hero stuff he seeks to avoid at all costs. (view spoiler)

Some of the sub-plot twists were simply weird, I thought this came from trying to tell too many stories simultaneously. Some stories, or sub-stories - if there is such a thing, have a life of their own, and tend to hijack the plot if you succumb to the temptation of letting them take themselves to a "logical end". A good example of how this can be handled, is The Lord of the Rings, where the author simply reduces the character-count to a much more manageable list. The Dune series also suffered from the same over-characterization that this book suffers from, with similar results.

There were brilliant moments in the story, moments where I felt the pace was as gripping as in the previous books, and these parts hold the book together for the sometimes heavy 535 pages. But the ratio of "number of pages read per brilliant moment", is simply lower as compared to the previous two books. This is probably an example of the predecessors leaving too high a bar for the last instalment to leap over!

All in all, this will go down as one of the best book series I have consumed, and I look forward to reading the three books back-to-back. I look forward to what Amish will come up with next, considering the clear hint he drops about the "Mahabaratha". Bring it on...
