

ETHICS AND MORAL VALUES OF LIFE AS TAUGHT IN INDIAN MYTHOLOGY

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Abstract:

Myths entertain and educate. They are there to elucidate traditions or values or beliefs in every culture. Myths when put up in a nutshell, It is nothing but the values and knowledge of a society and its beliefs about the proper relationship of gods and humans in memorable narrative for therefore that they'll be passed down by oral transmission and visual representation. As a whole the myth functions as a tool of cultural knowledge and oral-traditional culture. It basically serves as examples of the distant past, reminding us how things were before our world became so technologically advanced. Societies use myths to justify their existence and to make the claim that they are living in the way that they are supposed to live. Hence Mythology is supporting to imbibe the knowledge of Ethics and Moral values to the children through mythical stories.

Keywords: symbolic sense; woven; cultural perspectives; curated; sanitized; disgraceful; loyalty; spiritual enrichment; imaginary vision; are mesmerized; refinement and medication; transforming; justification of duty; plentifully replicated; ancestors; loyalty; Integrity.

Mythology refers either to the collected myths of a group of people or the study of myths like nature, history, and customs. It tells us the story of different cultures. All the mythologies revolve around their respective place of origin. In many cultures, the stories are told during a symbolic sense to stay the reader entertained. The readers interpret these mythologies in many ways. Some believe those events mentioned within the epic were real and happened thousands of years ago. There are of course many others who take it as any other bedtime story. Real or not, these epics are considerably relevant within the times . These stories tell us about the thanks to lead a far better life and to be an honest person . The idea behind these epics is to convey the true meaning of life as realized by the ancients. Hence a successful technique for myth is to combine ordinary and familiar shared values with extraordinary settings and circumstances. The stories are so wonderful that the reader wants to believe that they're woven round the great teachings of life to stay the reader entertained and thinking at the same time.

Storytelling is one of the most powerful learning techniques for young children. Stories seek to inform, educate and entertain children. Most important thing is that the stories get children to ask questions, encourage curiosity, impart life values or give cultural perspectives on history, world around them etc. Stories for children can be of any form like fairy tales, mythology, folk tales, legends, fables and so on. Stories impart morals, good values and positive world views to children. It is then exposed to children through the initiatives of parents, storybooks, videos or apps etc. The challenge in mythology stories tend to be that they need to be curated and even sanitized sometimes in conveying them to children. Myths can have violence, have conflicting messages, be disgraceful, be patriarchal and don't necessarily have happy endings.

Indian mythology helps convey the historical perspective, a sense of belonging, models for good behavior, the concept of dharma, moral lessons, value and virtues. The stories with mythology are bound with our respective cultures better. Indian mythology has different stories which move from one generation to another generation either by word of mouth or through stored records. These stories inculcate interest upon Indian

Culture in the younger generation towards the Indian mythology. The volume of knowledge in the myths not only conveys religious experiences, but also projects role models of behavior patterns. It deals with the stories from great epics like Mahabharata and Ramayana. Thousands of stories that are within the puranas, are the stories behind the key religious festivals we celebrate in India like Holi, Dusshera or Diwali are all valuable life lessons for children.

Stories of Ramayana impart values being truthful and righteousness even though that path is difficult; Mahabharata helps children understand sense of fairness, loyalty among others; Krishna stories impart values of bravery, helping others. Myths help explain the historical and shared beliefs of our culture and society such as our cultural beliefs of the origin of universe, the social order in our societies, instill a sense of awe about life and even guiding children towards spiritual enrichment.

“Children should be taught myths and legends at school because they are "models for a way of life", teaching them values and virtue by stealth, a Carnegie Medal-winning author has suggested.

However, myths also perform a very important role of conveying the bitter-sweet truths about life in a safe environment of storytelling. These days there are so many learning apps for children are available. These help children learn about mythology through curated videos. The parents need to encourage children to read myths and use these as opportunities to discuss values, morals, conflicts with them actively. With great animated videos, these apps bring to life the myths in a rich way –how they depict the heroes, characters and the plots. The videos with their voice over, spoken in English and regional languages also help the child learn language skills. Particularly for small children, who are in the process of acquiring critical language skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading

and Writing – encouraging them to narrate these stories in their words helps strengthen the language skills significantly.

In myths and folktales, the vocabulary is often concrete, so it is easy to present through imaginary vision that may help students to understand the story. They reveal, in a easy way, the idea of good and evil. Most of them contain a moral, which can be used in appraising understanding of the literature. This makes such stories good for developing skills of inferring meaning from context.

Mythology to the youngsters

Mythology has an instructive function as it tells the readers how to live a human lifetime under any circumstances. It gives us lessons on how to behave ourselves in the society. It also connects us with people in the precedent who had similar troubles or situations on themes of human conditions that do not change. We experience the same troubles and joys that our ancestors experienced. They develop the capacity of self discipline and decision making as the mentoring of moral development with mythology process that lasts throughout adolescence. Generally, youngsters will develop this type of behavior as they reach adulthood. In the present scenario teenagers face a lot of difficulties as they are mesmerized by media.

It is expected that the readers, after going through the stories and narratives, reflect upon and take lessons from them so that they are able to create within themselves, a new thrust towards excellence of morals for refinement and medication of the weaker souls. Basically we trust in many ethics of life that are very similar in nature; like, brotherhood, kindness, sincerity, honesty and integrity etc.

Mythology –A great way to connect with moralistic behaviors

- Distinguish between Good and bad
- The significance of Commitment
- Care and respect for Parents
- Sibling relationship
- Helping the poor
- Harmony in the society
- Determination to do Right things
- A Great Virtue of modesty and truth
- Respectful and humble

Distinguish between Good and bad:

Each and every soul in this world undergoes the characteristics of both good and Evil in their life. Good and evil things are differentiated by its conclusion. Naturally all the children are good when they are in to this materialistic world. The situations and the surroundings which they come across push them in doing either good things or bad things. Here mythological stories play a vital role to teach them the boundaries of both good and evil which transforms them in to a true human being.

The significance of Commitment:

Commitment is to contribute oneself in what they do. It is a progression in which one can fit in with other people, in which one can listen and gain knowledge from others, and thus widens their horizon. Therefore, one must experience commitment, because only in the experience one can see the value and importance of being committed for change and improvement. Hence mythological stories give us the opportunity to look at our own reality from different perspectives. The epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata are good examples for commitment.

Care and respect for Parents:

The traditional India has the great culture of Joint family where elder people were given more importance in all the aspects of life. Elderly parents live with their children and grandchildren till the end of their life happily. This helped to build a moralistic nation in those days. Due to the existing scenario of nuclear family, the habit of transforming ethical and moral values to the younger generation is not done in a fruitful way.

Sibling relationship:

The bond between brothers and sisters is one of the most unique ties in life. A sibling relationship is considered to be the most stable aspect of human lives. In Hindu mythology, ideal relationship between the siblings has been glorified in the great epic, The Ramayana where we find the brothers of Rama always amiable and respectful to him. The impact of it is enormous on young and adult lives which helps an individual to shape their own history and character, to a far greater extent than is usually acknowledged. It helps to maintain a positive sense of identity and knowledge of their cultural, personal, and family histories. Research has shown that people who are emotionally close to their siblings have higher life satisfaction and lower rates.

Helping the poor:

Indian mythological stories can teach children about strength and compassion that connotes the virtue of generosity. According to past history, dhana is an ancient practice in Indian traditions, tracing Hindu mythology by helping the poor, with water and free food. This builds the attitude of the younger generation to help the poor people in the needy situation. It is taught as one of the most important ritual in each and every one's life to follow. The spirit of helping others must prevail forever. The epic Mahabharata deals with the justification of duty to the weak and poor. Some memorable characters are Arjuna, talented and successful, Yudhishtira, tortured yet taking the moral option and caring for those who suffer, and Queen Draupadi, a feisty queen who stands up for right.

Harmony in the society:

Living in harmony with environment has been an integral part of Indian society and its culture. Religious harmony in India today plays a vital role where people from different faiths come together in the spirit of humanity, celebrating India's diversity and rich

heritage of tolerance. All the moral values are communicated through stories, symbols and rituals. It is inherited from our ancestors and is passed on to our children.

Determination to do Right things:

Each and every human being in this world has an urge on constantly doing things that is needed to do to succeed, with total focus and resolve, is incredibly difficult. They have the ability to work hard and respond optimistically towards failure and adversity is so essential. Mythology plays a vital role in motivating the minds of the younger generation in urging them to have a strong determination to do right things to achieve greater heights. The Great epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata gives a clear vision of characters to have a focused determination to achieve it successfully.

A Great Virtue of modesty and truth:

Every culture has its own mythology that involves heroic characters, mythical beasts, gods etc as their existence shows the incredible fascination. Indian mythology contains a immeasurable and ancient collection of tales, which are motivating, entertaining, and has a moral lesson behind them. Introducing children to mythology will help them learn about their culture, faith, language and ethical beliefs. By narrating these stories to them, will not only develop their imaginative skills but also linguistic abilities and good values. The story of Abhimanyu will teach about the concept of loyalty towards the family, Bravery, Dignity and love. The Integrity of Rama in Ramayana teaches about the loyalty on Friendship, Love for his fellow men and the bonding between the husband and wife.

Respectful and humble:

Children should gain knowledge of respect, which will facilitate them to exist well in the human society. Without respect they will have a hard time creating friends, when they grow up , constructing a successful career in future. Taking care of the environment is also an added form of respect. It means taking care of trees and animals. Learning to respect one another, the world would be a better place.

Summing Up:

The Indian literature is imperfect without the myths and the mythological stories. These stories educate the ethical values, customs and rituals to each person. Both the Indian writers and foreign writers use myth in their stories. Many people have toil on myth. Stories from Mahabharata have been used for the elucidation of myth. The epic tells about the circumstances of that age but the stories apprehensively show an individual's point of view. These stories, plays, replicate upon the feelings of a person. The writer uses myth to describe the situation and surroundings of that particular time. Hence the concept of Mythological stories helped to refine the minds of the younger generation by teaching them Ethics and Moral values of life and also is the need of the hour to teach them good and bad as it is done in Indian mythology. The culture and tradition will also get developed by these kinds of stories and also will take the younger minds in a confined path and also

gives a proper meaning to their life. Thus in this electronic world the mythological stories are important dose for human mind and can be considered as the need of the hour.

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