

# The Immortals of Meluha: Shiva's Trilogy by Amish Tripathi Reframed

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**Abstract:** *In Amish Tripathi's The Immortals of Meluha, Shiva, a common warrior, overcomes his demons and obstacles to become Mahadeva, God of the Gods. Modern historians believe Meluha was the Indus Valley Civilization's ancient name. Tripathi even promotes the Sun and Moon Dynasties of India as Suryavanshis and Chandravanshis. This research paper attempts to redefine terms like 'Virtue' and 'Vice'. From the start of the story, legends, Puranas, and folktales seem to blend into a cohesive pattern to show a time when old traditional values ruled the world and battles were fought for pride. Legend has caught the bravery of those bygone days in precise color.*

**Keywords:** Meluha, Mythology, ideology, Neelkanth, Suryavanshi, Chandravanshi.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Amish Tripathi, born on October 18, 1974, is a former student of the Indian Institute of Management Calcutta. He belongs to the zodiac sign Libra. He is famous for his novels *The Immortals of Meluha* (2010), *The Secret of the Nagas* (2012), and *The Oath of the Vayuputras* (2013). The Shiva Trilogy consists of three books collectively. Tripathi's first book, *The Immortals of Meluha*, skillfully combines elements of mythology with a fast-paced thriller plot, quickly reaching the highest point of success within a week of its release.

Amish, a 38-year-old IIM graduate, deliberately leaves his successful banking profession to become a respected and successful writer, mirroring the Shiva character in his writings. Amish's ability to combine adventure, action, and love with ideology, mythology, and philosophy has resulted in his creation of a very successful and well recognized chart-topping work.

*The Immortals of Meluha*, the first book in Tripathi's Shiva Trilogy, tells the story of Shiva, a regular warrior who conquers his inner struggles and earns the title of Mahadeva, the supreme deity. Dubey R., a lover of books, asserts that the novel resonated with the general public due to its uncomplicated philosophy and its main character, Shiva, who lacked a divine persona and instead resembled an ordinary individual. The character's difficulties and characteristics provide a clear understanding of the period's history and make it a captivating read.

When evil reaches epic proportions, when all seems lost, when it appears that your enemies have triumphed, a hero will emerge.

The story of *The Immortals of Meluha* begins at Shiva's residence, Lake Mansarovar, where he is portrayed as a simple man with peculiar characteristics. Shiva, as depicted in this narrative, is vastly different from how we have recognized him since 1900BC. As a young and unrefined Tibetan immigrant, Shiva is drawn into the renowned kingdom of Meluha. However, his journey takes an unexpected turn when the people of Meluha call upon him as the long-awaited 'savior' they have been eagerly anticipating. They confer upon him a novel uniqueness - 'the Neelkanth' or 'the individual with the blue throat'.

The story takes place in the realm of Meluha, where the Suryavanshis predict the arrival of a second Mahadeva who will serve as an architect to ensure a safer and more magnificent future for their people. The Meluhans firmly believe that Shiva, their savior Neelkanth, is authenticated as he ingests the Somras, a mythical elixir with healing properties, causing his throat to acquire a blue hue. In this chapter, the atmosphere shifts from Mount Kailash to Meluha, and Shiva undergoes a gradual transformation into a more divine creature known as the 'Neelkanth' or 'The Divine one with the Blue Throat'. The plot intensifies as the conflict between the Suryavanshi and Chandravanshi clans worsens. Here,

Shiva's mysterious leadership and divine nature directly contrast with his current appearance as a humble and unassuming person. Shiva decides to assist the Meluhans in their war alongside the Chandravanshis, who have joined forces with a cursed group known as Nagas. However, during his journey and the ensuing conflict, Shiva gains awareness of how his decisions truly reflect his aspirations and the severe consequences they have caused.

Shiva's heart is filled with indecision, uncertainty, and anxiety at the tasks he will soon be responsible for. This is when Sati enters his life. Unexpectedly, Shiva regains the lost tranquility and composure in his life and ultimately submits to his predetermined fate. Gradually, these tactics culminate in Shiva's realization of the latent power and dominance that is within him, which he then harnesses for the betterment of society.

The Immortals of Meluha is a captivating book that contains enough unexpected developments to hold the reader's attention. It brings a unique blend of mythology and fiction, which has been eagerly anticipated, particularly from an Indian author. The author's achievement rests in their adept creation of the various people and places that are already well-known to the Indian public. Tripathi incorporates philosophy into the main narrative, resulting in unexpected outcomes. He succinctly explains his core principles as:

I believe that the Hindu gods were not mythical beings or a figment of a rich imagination. I believe that they were creatures of flesh and blood, like you and me. I believe that they achieved godhood through their karma, their deeds.

Meluha is located near a flawless empire, established several centuries ago by Lord Ram, one of the most powerful and enduring monarchs in history. Nevertheless, the formerly esteemed empire and its Suryavanshi rulers are currently confronting a severe dilemma due to the gradual depletion of their primary river, the beloved Saraswati, which is nearing extinction. In addition, they face destructive extremist assaults originating from the eastern region, where the Chandravanshis, who have formed an alliance with the Nagas, a race afflicted with physical abnormalities, reside. Daksha, the current ruler of Meluha, dispatches his envoys to Tibet in North India to extend an invitation to the tribes residing there to join Meluha. Among the invitees is the Gunas, led by Shiva, a courageous warrior and protector. Shiva agrees to the plan and relocates to Meluha along with his people. They establish contact with the city of Srinagar and are welcomed by Ayurvati, the Chief of Medicine of the Meluhans. Shiva and his clan are greatly impressed by the Meluhan way of life. During their previous night in Srinagar, the Gunas woke up with a high fever and sweating. The Meluhans continue the curative process as mandated by Ayurvati. However, Ayurvati observes that Shiva is the only one who does not exhibit these symptoms and that his throat has become cyanotic. The Meluhans declare Shiva as the Neelkanth, their legendary rescuer.

Shiva is thereafter transported to Devagiri, the principal city of Meluha, where he encounters King Daksha. During their stay, Shiva and his companions, Nandi and Veer Bhadra, come across a captivating and enigmatic woman who possesses a glance of redemption on her countenance. Later, they discover that she is Princess Sati, the daughter of Daksha, and is considered a Vikarma, an untouchable in this existence because of transgressions she did in her previous lives. Shiva endeavors to woo her, but she rejects his romantic advances. Ultimately, Shiva acquires her heart and they make the decision to enter into matrimony, despite the limitations imposed by the Vikarma rule. Infuriated by the purportedly outdated legislation, Shiva proclaims himself as the Neelkanth and vows to abolish the Vikarma statute. Daksha grants Sati permission to marry Shiva, amidst much joy and happiness.

During his time in Devagiri, Shiva becomes acquainted with the treacherous conflicts that the Chandravanshis are waging against the Meluhans. He also had contact with Brahaspati, the principal creator of the Meluhans. Brahaspati extends an invitation to Shiva and the royal family to embark on a journey to Mount Mandar, where the mythical Somras is created by utilizing the waters of the Saraswati river. Shiva discovers that the potion responsible for turning his throat blue was undiluted Somras, which can be deadly when consumed in its pure form. Nevertheless, Shiva's imperviousness served as the primary indication of his identity as the Neelkanth. Furthermore, he discovers that Somras was the reason behind the Meluhans' longevity for many years. Brahaspati and Shiva develop a strong bond of friendship and the magnificent family continues their journey to Devagiri. One morning, the entire population of Meluha is awakened by the resounding clamor emanating from Mount Mandar. Upon reaching the hill, Shiva and his army discover that a significant portion of Mandar has been obliterated, resulting in the deaths of numerous innovators and causing immense destruction. There is no mention of Brahaspati, but Shiva identifies the symbol of the Nagas, which confirms their involvement in the deceptive warfare of the Chandravanshis.

Enraged by this, Shiva proclaims hostilities against the Chandravanshis. After consulting with Devagiri Chief Minister Kanakhla and Meluhan Army Head Parvateshwar, Shiva proceeds towards Swadweep, the territory of the Chandravanshis. A fierce battle ensues between the Meluhans and the Swadweepans, resulting in victory for the Meluhans. The Chandravanshi monarch is arrested, but he becomes furious upon seeing the Neelkanth. Anandmayi, the princess of the Chandravanshi, reveals that their civilization also had a similar tradition, which states that the Neelkanth will emerge to save their land by launching an attack against the "malevolent" Suryavanshis. Upon hearing this, Shiva is astounded and deeply distressed. Accompanied by Sati, he visits the renowned Ram temple in Ayodhya, the capital of Swadweep. He meets a priest who informs him about his karma, providence, and the decisions he has made in life. This knowledge will guide him in the future. As Shiva emerges from the shrine, he notices Sati standing outside the temple, eagerly awaiting his arrival, as well as a Naga positioned near a nearby tree. The book reaches its climax when Shiva charges forward to rescue Sati.

Throughout the work, the diverse tapestry of Indian history, mythology, folklore, and religion captivates the reader, compelling them to eagerly turn the pages and delve into the printed words. Moreover, the essential narrative of finding truth, which states that 'God exists within each individual, and all we must do is recognize this and allow ourselves an opportunity', enhances the emotional connection and affiliation of readers with the work. Finally, the strategically placed enigma "... to be unrelenting" and a snippet from the following book, 'The Secret of the Nagas', concludes this edition, leaving the reader eager and longing for more.

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