

## Revision and Re-interpretation: Reimagining Mythology with an Artistic Twist

**Shashi Prabha Nagendra**

Asst. Professor, BNM Institute of Technology, Bengaluru  
shashinagendra@gmail.com

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**Abstract:** Fusing technology with imagination and creativity to reinvent ancient tales presents a cornucopia of new world to the readers. The stories remain as sizzling as the original, finding a way into our subconscious mind, documenting a change taking place in our region, and creating evolution. As the young understand and enjoy, the elderly relook at the tales that revive our fading culture.

The famous Indian epic narrative the Mahabharata; highlights the Kurukshetra war, fate of Kaurava and Pandavas, and the enigma of Shri Krishna. The epic spectacularly enlightens the readers about karma and dharma. However, it never strikes the reader's mind that when men and Gods take a decision for the 'greater good', what the women in their time go through.

**The Palace of Illusions** – told from the point of view of Panchali, the wife of the legendary Pandava brothers in the Mahabharat, gives a new interpretation to this ancient tale. Revision and Reinterpretation enriches and revolutionizes our thought process showing us the unseen.

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This paper highlights with the examples taken from 3 different masterpieces and stories rewritten on the literary work of art: Revision and Reinterpretation enriches and revolutionizes our thought process showing us the unseen. In this process, it carves a strong position for women in the society.

It is said that, "every meal is a story." The traditions of our everyday lives—the foods, rituals, beliefs, and other cultural markers that we use to express our values and identities, tell the world about who we are and where we come from and hence narratives originate. Narratives bring in the rich details and often personal perspectives. Narratives explore the relationship between historical writing and theoretical understanding.

An author imagines and writes not to multiply the voice merely, not to carry it merely but to precipitate it. The author has something incredible to say which he perceives to be true and useful or beautiful. So far he knows no one has said it, so far as he knows, no one else can say it. He is bound to say it clearly and melodiously. He finds this to be a thing that manifests him. This is a piece of true knowledge, or sight, which his share of sunshine and earth has permitted him to seize. That generates his masterpiece.

Fusing technology with imagination and creativity to reinvent ancient tales presents a cornucopia of new world to the readers. The stories remain as sizzling as the original, finding a way into our subconscious mind, documenting a change taking place in our region, and creating evolution. As the young understand and enjoy, the elderly relook at the tales that revive our fading culture.

Reimagining and recasting the weaker section of the society through projecting women in the forefront has been one of the most important elements in the literary world.

**Many readers often wonder why stories are reinterpreted and revised.**

The first thought that answers this question is writers want to draw a connection with the society. Putting an ancient tale in a modern garb is also a writer's legitimate activity. Secondly, sending a strong message through the narratives causes a greater impact on the reader. In order to achieve this, the author brings in situations that change and blend with the changing culture and traditions.

In retelling the epic and legend, the writer does not depend solely on his own considerable knowledge. But gives it an imaginative twist by listening, absorbing, rejecting until he arrives to the final text which satisfies him. However, the writer never simplifies the work of art in doing so. He suggests the inner underlying meaning and the messages the originals offer in such abundant measures. He avoids all heroics, and tells his story in a measured pace without losing any nuance. He uses everyday language, disrobed of all decorum, to evoke great drama and to fill the gaps and solve the mysteries. The authors cry for an urgent need to reform the society is evinced in his approach to different issues by revising the same story.

**Reimagining Classics and giving it an artistic twist**

Classics are called such for a reason, but what happens when someone decides to take one such classic and retell it in a new way? Amazing things! or at least that's what happens in this collection of Jane Austen's novel, 'Pride and Prejudice'. Out of all of Jane Austen's novels, *Pride and Prejudice* is the most beloved and widely read. Writers have tried to revive these heroines who value sentiments more than materialism and follow their heart in making their choice unlike the present world where materialism overpowers our sentiments in every choice that we make.

The heroine in the fiction, Elizabeth, is a loyal follower of her own affection. She encourages Jane to pursue true love with Bingley, and has disagreement of Caroline's overflowing flattery of Darcy for the purpose of only marrying a gentleman whose fortune and position are a great appeal to herself, regardless of the affection. This is reflected in Elizabeth's words, "A lady's imagination is very rapid; it jumps from admiration to love, from love to matrimony, in a moment."

Elizabeth voices Jane Austen's opinion. She expresses everything that Austen wants to express. They both believe that a happy marriage is grounded upon mutual attraction. The marriage between Elizabeth and Darcy typically shows that we should not simply judge a person from the first sight of appearance and impression. It takes time to understand each other completely, and to get a pure appeal to each other.

And at first Elizabeth thought Darcy was too arrogant, so she also refused the wealthy gentleman. We can see a rational and intelligent girl in the novel. With the help of a bookish heroine, a timeless romance, and witty social critique, the writer fills the romantic classic with vivid imagery, vibrant characters, and metaphorical language.

This modern-day retelling of *Pride and Prejudice*, 'Eligible', by Curtis Sittenfeld, revolves around two sisters, Liz and Jane, who are summoned home to suburban Cincinnati to care for their family. A charming love story brimming with humor and wit, *Eligible* suits the modern lifestyle and what makes it interesting to the readers of this generation is that Mr. Darcy plays a neurosurgeon.

Everyone knows the story of Elizabeth and Darcy, but what about the servants around them? "Longbourn" by Jo Baker, in her unique story about the other side of the Bennet's world explores class and privilege through the eyes of Sarah, the Bennet's housemaid. Romantic, comical, and appropriately dramatic, Longbourn features the same elements that make Jane Austen's classic so beloved, but he takes us through this journey in a whole new way.

### **Reinforcement of culture through introspection of great epics:**

The famous Indian epic narrative the Mahabharat; highlights the Kurukshetra war, fate of Kaurava and Pandavas, and the enigma of Shri Krishna. The epic spectacularly enlightens the readers about karma and dharma. However, it never strikes the reader's mind that when men and Gods take a decision for the 'greater good', what the women in their time go through.

The humiliation of Draupadi, the wife of the five Pandavas, in the court is a central episode in "the Mahabharata. This is how R K Narayan presents Draupadi's cry of agony: "This is monstrous. Is morality gone, or else can you be looking on at this atrocity? These are my husbands-five, not one as for the others- and they look paralysed." While Bhima alone could have crushed with his thumb the perpetrators of this horrible act, they surprisingly stand there transfixed, speechless like imbeciles. Simple words which, in the context are hair-raising can be read without too much introspection. Awakening or reinforcing of the fading culture through reviving mythology is palpable in these writings.

**The Palace of Illusions** – Weaves a vibrant retelling of an ancient epic saga Told from the point of view of Panchali, the wife of the legendary Pandava brothers in the Mahabharat gives a new interpretation to this ancient tale. A woman living in a patriarchal world, smart, resilient, and courageous Panchaali, born of fire, marries five of the famously heroic Pandava brothers, harbors a secret love, endures a long exile in the wilderness, instigates a catastrophic war, and slowly learns the truth about Krishna, her mysterious friend.

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### **The impact of the 'Ramayana'**

**'Lakshmana's wife goes to sleep'** elicits the author's interpretation of the sacrifice made by Urmila after Lakshmana accompanies Lord Rama to the forest. The author's imagination and reinterpretation of the unseen captures the reader's mind. "Quoted" - But the law of nature demanded that someone bear the burden of Lakshmana's share of sleep. "Go to my wife, Urmila, and inform her of the situation," said Lakshmana. Nidra went to Urmila. Urmila bowed her head and replied, "Give me my husband's share of sleep for fourteen years so that he can stay awake all that time without any fatigue." So it came to pass that Urmila slept for fourteen years night and day while her husband stayed awake in the service of Ram and Sita.

Revision and Reinterpretation enriches and revolutionizes our thought process showing us the unseen. Little is known about the woman Buddha left behind agonized and devastated to face the world alone. **'Buddha's Wife'**, a novel by Gabriel Constants, sheds light on the strong and complicated woman and rekindles the nature of spiritual life. A remarkable re-creation of Yasodhara's life compels the readers to contemplate on Buddha who had immense compassion for others, yet, could be so scared of intimacy, emotion and love. The author's approach and interpretation poses a challenge to all spiritual seekers to rethink, re-visit and dream anew.

### **The power of narratives retold:**

Women who were the most dormant segment of Indian population have now been cast in narratives as active participants in all walks of life. Till now, they were only unit of the family organization. Women were destined to live for others by subduing their own aspirations and die in seclusion. Women in general, through marriage were compelled to merge their identity with that of their husbands just as a river merges with the ocean. This was the general tone that ran across the narratives. Now, with the revision, retrospection and reinterpretation of narratives, and the changes in outlook, women are not only portrayed as a significant unit of the society but also influencing the course of social change in society.

Women are an important element of our Society. The modern society has started recognizing the individual identity of women. She is believed to have her aspiration, abilities and qualities as a man does have and it is also agreed that she should have the opportunities to develop her faculties and to express them according to her own choice. Stories are rewritten from HER point of view, which gives a new dimension and leads the reader into a colourful and broader horizon. The cry of women that was subdued in most of the narratives is now being heard through retrospection of narratives.

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