

A Simple Man's Journey to Greatness: A Personal Response to *The Immortals of Meluha*

Sometimes, we read a book not just to escape into another world, but to find something that quietly mirrors our own. *The Immortals of Meluha* by Amish Tripathi was one of those books for me. It's not just about gods, ancient kingdoms, or battles. It's about choices. It's about a regular person trying to make sense of right and wrong, truth and illusion—something we all deal with every day.

At the heart of the story is Shiva. He isn't born a god. He doesn't have any magical powers. He's just a man—a tribal leader from the mountains who laughs, dances, gets confused, and asks questions. That's what I liked most about him. He's human, just like us. And yet, through the choices he makes and the things he stands for, people start to see him as more than that. As the Neelkanth. As a hero. As a symbol of change.

When Shiva arrives in the kingdom of Meluha, he finds a society that looks perfect on the surface. The people are disciplined, the streets are clean, and everything seems to work like clockwork. But as time passes, he notices cracks in this so-called perfection. People with deformities, like the Nagas, are treated like criminals, even though they've done nothing wrong. They're feared, hated, and forced to live in hiding.

This really made me pause and think. Aren't we doing the same in real life? Maybe not in such an obvious way, but we do judge people all the time—because of how they look, where they come from, or the way they speak. I remember a classmate in school who struggled with a speech disorder. Many ignored him or laughed behind his back. But if someone had really tried to understand him, they'd have found a brilliant, kind person. Just like how the Meluhans could've learned from the Nagas, if only they had bothered to look beyond their fear.

What struck me about Shiva is that he doesn't blindly follow what people tell him. Even when everyone else says the Nagas are evil or that Meluha is always right, he questions it. He listens. He observes. And most importantly, he thinks for himself. That's something I really admire. It's so easy to just agree with the crowd, especially when going against it makes you unpopular or misunderstood. But Shiva dares to ask, "Is this really fair?"

His courage doesn't come from strength or weapons. It comes from compassion. It comes from doing the right thing even when it's uncomfortable. One of the most powerful moments in the book is when Shiva realizes that neither the Meluhans nor the Chandravanshis are entirely good or evil. They just see the world differently. That moment reminded me of how misunderstandings can grow into hate, simply because people don't take the time to talk or understand one another.

This story isn't about big miracles—it's about small realizations. Like how greatness doesn't come from being born in a royal family or having a perfect body. It comes from how we treat others. It comes from standing up when it's easier to stay silent.

There's a simple line in the book: "A man becomes a Mahadev when he fights for what is right." That line stuck with me. It tells us that anyone—yes, anyone—can be a hero. You

don't need to wear armor or save a kingdom. Sometimes, being a hero means helping a friend who's down, apologizing when you're wrong, or speaking out when someone's being bullied. These are small acts, but they take real courage.

The beauty of *The Immortals of Meluha* is how it makes ancient stories feel so modern. Even though the setting is old, the emotions, struggles, and questions are exactly what we face today. Whether it's unfair systems, rigid rules, or people being judged unfairly—these things haven't changed much over time. That's what makes this story so meaningful. It's not just about the past. It's about now.

Another part I loved was Shiva's honesty about his confusion. He doesn't pretend to have all the answers. He often feels torn and unsure. And yet, he keeps searching. He keeps trying to understand. That reminded me of times when I've had to make difficult choices in my own life—when I wasn't sure what was right but tried to listen to my heart anyway. That's what makes Shiva's journey so real. It's not a straight path. It's full of doubts, mistakes, and growth.

Even the way Shiva treats people shows his leadership. He doesn't demand respect—he earns it. He doesn't silence people—he listens to them. When others panic or turn bitter, he remains calm and kind. In a world where leaders often seek power and control, Shiva leads with humility. That's the kind of leader I'd want to be. Not one who shouts the loudest, but one who lifts others up.

In the end, *The Immortals of Meluha* left me with a very simple but deep realization: The real war is not between kingdoms. It's between our better self and our weaker self. Between choosing what is easy and choosing what is right. Between judging others and trying to understand them.

The book didn't just entertain me—it made me look inward. It made me question my assumptions, rethink fairness, and believe that even ordinary people can bring extraordinary change. Shiva's story reminds us that being human is not a flaw—it's the start of something great. We all carry doubts. We all make mistakes. But what matters most is what we choose to do next.

Just like Shiva, we may not have all the answers. But we can keep asking the right questions. And in a world that desperately needs more kindness, courage, and understanding—maybe that's the most heroic thing of all.