

## Sita An Illustrated Retelling Of The Ramayana

**High above the sky stands Swarga, paradise, abode of the gods. Still above is Vaikuntha, heaven, abode of God. The doorkeepers of Vaikuntha are the twins, Jaya and Vijaya, both whose names mean 'victory'. One keeps you in Swarga; the other raises you into Vaikuntha. In Vaikuntha there is bliss forever, in Swarga there is pleasure for only as long as you deserve. What is the difference between Jaya and Vijaya? Solve this puzzle and you will solve the mystery of the Mahabharata. In this enthralling retelling of India's greatest epic, the Mahabharata, originally known as Jaya, Devdutt Pattanaik seamlessly weaves into a single narrative plots from the Sanskrit classic as well as its many folk and regional variants, including the Pandavani of Chattisgarh, Gondhal of Maharashtra, Terukkuttu of Tamil Nadu, and Yakshagana of Kamataka. Richly illustrated with over 250 line drawings by the author, the 108 chapters abound with little-known details such as the names of the hundred Kauravas, the worship of Draupadi as a goddess in Tamil Nadu, the stories of Astika, Madhavi, Jamini, Aravan and Barnareek, the Mahabharata version of the Shakuntalam and the Ramayana,**

**and the dating of the war based on astronomical data. With clarity and simplicity, the tales in the elegant volume reveal the eternal relevance of the Mahabharata, the complex and disturbing meditation on the human condition that has shaped Indian thought for over 3000 years.**

**What does the Biblical story of Nathan and David say about effective communication skills? How do you identify the Raja Bhoj, the Gangu Teli and the Shekchilli in your office? What is the corporate equivalent of an Ashwamedha yajna? Drawing from sources as diverse as the Mahabharata and the Bible, the Vikram-Betal stories, the Iliad and the Odyssey, Islamic tenets, the tales of rishis and kings, and fables from around the world, Devdutt Pattanaik, India's leading mythologist, provides a fascinating account of what leadership entails. How to choose the right leader, effectively communicate with a boss, maintain the right balance between discipline and leniency? In these and other workplace situations, Pattanaik shows what leaders of today can learn about the art of leadership from stories written thousands of years ago, things no management course can teach. Leader: 50 Insights from Mythology uses myths and legends to arrive at wisdom that is both**

**time-worn and refreshingly new, on what makes a good leader. 'You are bound by rules, but not I. I am free to choose.' Two thousand years ago, the poet-sage Valmiki wrote the Ramayana. It is the tale of Ram, the sun-prince of Ayodhya, who is obliged to follow family rules and so makes no choices. And of Ravana, king of Lanka, who does not respect anybody's rules or other people's choices. Over the centuries, hundreds have retold the tale in different languages, adding new twists and turns. But few have noticed that the tale always depends on the five choices made by Sita. What were Sita's five choices? India's favourite mythologist brings you this charmingly illustrated retelling of the Ramayana that is sure to empower and entertain a new generation readers. In the forest of insecurities, is it possible to discover humanity through pleasure? Can we stop seeing each other as predator, prey, rival or mate, and rediscover ourselves as lovers? Does the divine reside in sensual delight, in emotional intimacy and in aesthetic experience? Yes, yes, yes. That is the promise of the Bhagavata. The Bhagavata is the story of Krishna, known as Shyam to those who find beauty, wisdom and love in his dark complexion. It is the third great Hindu epic after the Mahabharata and the Ramayana.**

**However, this narration was composed in fragments over thousands of years, first as the Harivamsa, then as the Bhagavata Purana, and finally as the passionate songs of poet-sages in various regional languages. This book seamlessly weaves the story from Krishna's birth to his death, or rather from his descent to the butter-smeared world of happy women to his ascent from the blood-soaked world of angry men.**

**Shikhandi**

**Myth = Mithya**

**Shakti**

**An Illustrated Retelling**

**Jaya**

**The Elephant God (Penguin Petit)**

Why is Ganesha such a popular god despite being only 1500 years old? Did you know he is the god associated with the maximum number of symbols? Why is his vehicle a rat? Why does he carry an axe? Because of Ganesha, the terrifying Kali becomes the maternal Gauri, and the sanyasi Shiva becomes a father and householder – Ganesha is the god of domestic life. His devotees can represent him as they wish – these days his potbelly has been replaced with six-pack abs! Ganpati's own history, his changing roles, indicate how Indian society has

changed over time – in Mumbai, Ganpati has taken on a form which didn't exist 100 years ago! Find out more about this beloved god of good luck and auspiciousness this festive season in this short, sweet read from Devlok. After she and Rama are banished from the kingdom, Sita is imprisoned in a garden and must prove herself to be true to Rama, in a graphic adaptation of the great Indian legend.

- Olympus is the home of the Greek gods, much like Amravati of the Hindu devas.
- Zeus, leader of Olympians, wields a thunderbolt like Indra, and rides an eagle like Vishnu.
- The feats of the Greek hero Heracles, known to Romans as Hercules, reminded many of Krishna, as did his name, 'Hari-kula-asha' or lord of the Hari clan.
- The Greek epic of a husband sailing across the sea with a thousand ships to bring his wife, Helen, back from Troy seems strikingly similar to the story of Ram rescuing Sita from Lanka. Is there a connection between Greek and Hindu mythology then? Does it have something to do with a common Indo-European root? Or maybe an exchange of ideas in the centuries that followed the arrival of Alexander the Great, when Greek emissaries travelled to the kingdoms of Mathura and Magadha? In this book, mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik turns his attention to ancient Greek tales, and explores a new world of stories. Long have Europeans and Americans retold Indic mythologies. It is time for Indians to

reverse the gaze.

Set in a world of kings and queens, celestial battles, invisible foes, and family rivalries, this epic tale forges legends in the fires of betrayal and prophecy. Welcome to the royal city of Ayodhya, a realm ruled by the Sun dynasty, where peace reigns among the citizens while discord simmers behind the palace walls. A prophecy predicts that a son of the Sun dynasty will slay the immortal Ravana and defeat his demon army—but how will a mere human succeed where all the gods have failed? A truly original reimagining of the classic Indian epic, the Ramayana, as told primarily through the eyes of the women behind the throne, Sita's Fire Trilogy reveals an entirely new perspective on an ancient story. These deluxe illustrated novels pair divinely inspired art with intimate portrayals of Rama, Sita, Lakshmana, Ravana, and many more, such as princesses, all-seeing sages and shape-shifting blood drinkers. This boxed set includes Shadows of the Sun Dynasty, Queen of the Elements, and Destroyer of Sorrow.

My Gita

Vishnu

Ramayana

Devlok

My Playful Comparison

### Leader

One of the world's oldest and best-loved tales, now retold and illustrated in thrilling detail for readers of all ages. Rama pulled the splendid arrow out of his quiver. It had been given to him long ago by the sage Agastya who had told him that he could use it only once and only for a great enemy. The incomparable arrow held the wind in its feathers, the sun and the moon in its shining tip, the earth in its shaft and the power of the doomsday fire in its flight. Ramayana—an unforgettable tale of love, adventure, flying monkeys and god acting in the world of humans—has been treasured by readers around the world for thousands of years. Now in an authoritative, gripping retelling by the renowned Ramayana scholar Arshia Sattar, readers have a new chance to explore this classic's riches. Rama is a brave young prince who is forced into exile. His brother Lakshmana and his wife, the beautiful princess Sita, loyally follow him into the depths of the mysterious forest, where they encounter strange and dangerous creatures. None is as terrifying as Ravana, the ten-headed demon king who kidnaps Sita and takes her to a fortified city in the middle of the ocean. To rescue her, Rama enlists the help of hundreds of thousands of magical monkeys and bears to fight the demon army and win her back. Even the gods gather to witness the harrowing battle. Will Rama and his friends prevail, and will Sita return to

him? Only these captivating pages will tell...

In My Gita, acclaimed mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik demystifies The Bhagavad Gita for the contemporary reader. His unique approach—thematic rather than verse by verse—makes the ancient treatise eminently accessible, combined as it is with his trademark illustrations and simple diagrams. In a world that seems spellbound by argument over dialogue, vivaad over samvaad, Devdutt highlights how Krishna nudges Arjuna to understand rather than judge his relationships. This becomes relevant today when we are increasingly indulging and isolating the self (selfimprovement, selfactualization, selfrealization—even selfies). We forget that we live in an ecosystem of others, where we can nourish each other with food, love and meaning, even when we fight. So let My Gita inform your Gita.

Many modern scholars say Shiva linga is a phallic symbol. Most devotees disagree. Who is right? To make sense of a mythological image one has to align the language [heard stories] with the language [performed rituals], and the language [seen symbols]. This book also looks at the sexual metaphors. Why do we offer Vishnu butter, but Shiva milk? Why is Krishna offered the chappanbhog—fifty-six items of food—during Annakuta? Do the goddesses not like bhog? Where does the custom of hanging a lemon and seven chillies come

from? Is there a legendary male cook among the gods? Anna is called Brahmin, the way bhasha is called Brahmin. Food and the action of eating maintain life. And yet, traditionally the devis remind you that whenever you eat, you've killed something, sacrificed someone, even plants which come from farms, decimating forests and rivers. The devi reminds one that to build your civilization—sanskriti—you destroy your nature—prakriti. Feast your mind on intricate details behind how we offer food to the gods, and why certain foods are part of the Indian tradition, in this short, sweet read from Devlok.

Valmiki's Ramayana

Devdutt Pattanaik Ke Sang 2 (Hindi edition)

An Indian Retelling of Jewish, Christian and Islamic Lore

Who Created The Universe?

A Boon and a Curse

The Ramayana or the Mahabharata? (Penguin Petit)

*Unlike many other ancient mythologies, Hinduism thrives in the modern world. One billion followers and countless others have been captivated by its symbolic representations of love, karma, and reincarnation. Handbook of Hindu Mythology offers an informative introduction to this dauntingly*

*complex mythology of multifaceted deities, lengthy heroic tales, and arcane philosophies—all with a 3,000-year history of reinterpretations and adaptations. Williams offers a number of pathways by which to approach Hinduism's ever-changing gods and goddesses (e.g., Brahmī, Vishnu, Siva), spiritual verses (such as the vedas), secular epics (including the Rāmāyana and the Mahābhārata), myths within myths, devotional and esoteric traditions, psychic and yogic disciplines, and magical practices. With this handbook, readers can explore the history of Hindu mythology, follow a detailed timeline of key episodes and historical events, and look up specific elements of historical or contemporary Hinduism in a beautifully illustrated reference work. It is the ideal introduction to the origins of Hinduism, the culture that shaped it from antiquity to the present, and the age-old stories, ideas, and traditions that speak to the human condition as eloquently today as ever. Including annotated bibliographies, a glossary of cultural and mythological*

*terms, and numerous illustrations, here is a gold mine of information on Hindu mythology.*

*How many avatars does Vishnu actually have? Is Buddha an avatar of Vishnu? What do Bodhisattva and Vishnu have in common? What do all of his avatars symbolize? Is there a connection between Vishnu's avatars and Darwin's theory of evolution? It is believed that Vishnu always comes to earth when Devi is suffering—Parashurama for Renuka, Ram for Sita. Another belief is that every time Vishnu takes an avatar, Devi too is born. A Vishnu avatar went on a rampage destroying all Kshatriyas, but also strives to protect the weeping earth goddess who appeared before him as a cow. Which of these many personas does Vishnu represent? Find out more about the rich symbolism of his multitude of personas in this short, sweet read from Devlok.*

*He Is Eka-Vachani, A King Who Always Keeps His Word; Eka-Bani, An Archer Who Strikes His Target With The First Arrow; And Eka-Patni, A Husband Who Is Eternally And Absolutely Devoted To A Single Wife. He Is Maryada Purushottam Ram, The*

*Supreme Upholder Of Social Values, The Scion Of The Raghu Clan, Jewel Of The Solar Dynasty, The Seventh Avatar Of Vishnu, God Who Establishes Order In Worldly Life. Hindus Believe That In Stressful And Tumultuous Times Chanting Ram's Name And Hearing His Tale, The Ramayan, Brings Stability, Hope, Peace And Prosperity. Reviled By Feminists, Appropriated By Politicians, Ram Remains Serene In His Majesty, The Only Hindu Deity To Be Worshipped As A King. Valmiki's Ramayana, composed as early as 500 BCE, remains a story that speaks to every generation and continues to enthral millions of people in the Subcontinent and beyond. The noble prince Rama is exiled from Ayodhya on his stepmother's whim, and his loyal brother Lakshmana and beautiful wife, Sita, follow him into the forest despite the many dangers it holds. But when Sita is kidnapped by Ravana, king of the rakshasas, Rama must go deep into himself to find the physical and emotional resources he needs to rescue her. Apart from exploring the fundamental human question of how to be good, the Ramayana is also the story of a god who*

*comes to earth to establish righteousness. The tension between Rama's essentially divine nature and his all too human trials makes this one of the most compelling epics in world literature.*

**Handbook of Hindu Mythology**

**The Great Indian Epics**

**Sita's Ramayana**

**My Hanuman Chalisa**

**Animal Tales from Hindu Mythology**

**The Book of Ram**

*Artist and veteran Pixar animator Sanjay Patel lends a lush, whimsical illustration style and lighthearted voice to one of Hindu mythology's best-loved and most enduring tales. Teeming with powerful deities, love-struck monsters, flying monkey gods, magic weapons, demon armies, and divine love, Ramayana tells the story of Rama, a god-turned-prince, and his quest to rescue his wife Sita after she is kidnapped by a demon king. This illustrated tale features over 100 colorful full-spread illustrations, a detailed pictorial glossary of the cast of characters who make up the epic tale, and sketches of the work in progress. From princesses in peril to gripping battles, scheming royals, and hordes of bloodthirsty demons, Ramayana is the ultimate adventure story presented with an unforgettably modern touch.*

*A decoding of Hindu mythology Hindus have one God. They also have 330 million gods: male gods; female gods; personal gods; family gods; household gods; village gods; gods of space and time; gods for specific castes and particular professions; gods who reside in trees; in animals; in minerals; in geometrical patterns and in man-made objects. Then there are a whole host of demons. But no Devil. In this groundbreaking book Dr Devdutt Pattanaik; one of India's most popular mythologists; seeks an answer to these apparent paradoxes and unravels an inherited truth about life and death; nature and culture; perfection and possibility. He retells sacred Hindu stories and decodes Hindu symbols and rituals; using a unique style of commentary; illustrations and diagrams. We discover why the villainous Kauravas went to heaven and the virtuous Pandavas (all except Yudhishtira) were sent to hell; why Rama despite abandoning the innocent Sita remains the model king; why the blood-drinking Kali is another form of the milk-giving Gauri; and why Shiva wrenched off the fifth head of Brahma. Constructed over generations; Hindu myths serve as windows to the soul; and provide an understanding of the world around us. The aim is not to outgrow myth; but to be enriched and empowered by its ancient; potent and still relevant language.*

*RAMAYANA MAHABHARATA Also available as an e-book Non-fiction/Philosophy RAMAYANA vs DEVDUTT PATTANAIAK MAHAB HARATA*

*The ultimate goal of a spiritual transformation is enlightenment and with enlightenment comes ananda or tranquil bliss. And with this bliss, there are no urges, no needs, and no desires. This is usually how Shiva is known to exist: in perpetual transcendence. However, transcendence*

*means there isn't a need for life or matter to exist. Desire is what links man to nature and if this desire is taken away, the world soon enters stasis and all life will cease to exist. This only means that even Shiva is domesticated in some form or the other. How does this happen? Who makes this happen? In Shiva: The Ultimate Tapasvin, Devdutt Pattanaik analyzes Shiva's significance in Hindu mythology and how He contributes to perpetuating life on earth. Read on.*

*Sita's Fire Trilogy [Slipcase]*

*Pashu*

*Divine Loophole*

*Culture*

*Sita's Sister*

*Ramayana Versus Mahabharata*

Patriarchy asserts men are superior to women Feminism clarifies women and men are equal Queerness questions what constitutes male and female Queerness isn ' t only modern, Western or sexual, says mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik. Take a close look at the vast written and oral traditions in Hinduism, some over two thousand years old, and you will find tales of: Shikhandi, who became a man to satisfy her wife Mahadeva, who became a woman to deliver a devotee ' s child Chudala, who became a man to enlighten her husband Samavan, who became the wife of his male friend and many more . . . Playful and touching—and sometimes disturbing—these stories when compared with

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tales of the Mesopotamian Gilgamesh, the Greek Ganymede, the biblical Sodom or the Chinese ' cut sleeve ' Emperor reveal the unique Indian way of making sense of queerness. Devdutt Pattanaik ' s new book builds on profound ideas that our ancestors shared but which we have rarely inherited. This book has content for mature audiences. Discretion advised.

- A fish saves the world.
- A horse flies across the sky.
- A king discovers that his beloved wife is actually a frog.

Hindu mythology is full of tales in which animals play important roles. Some animals are looked upon with fear and dread, while some are worshipped along with the gods. Some shape the fate of the world, others form everlasting bonds with humans. Where did the animals come from? From Vishnu ' s avatars or Shiva ' s asanas? How was a deer responsible for the events of the Ramayana? Why is Garuda the sworn enemy of the nagas? How did a mongoose teach Yudhishtira the true meaning of sacrifice? Devdutt Pattanaik answers all these questions and more in this exquisitely illustrated book, retelling numerous animal stories from ancient texts, with his trademark charm and wit.

It is significant that the only character in Hindu mythology, a king at that, to be given the title of ekam-patni-vrata, devoted to a single wife, is associated with the most unjust act of abandoning her in the forest to protect family reputation. This seems a deliberate souring of the narrative, made even more complex by

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Ram ' s refusal to remarry despite the pressure on royalty to produce an heir. The intention seems to be to provoke thought on notions of fidelity, property and self-image. And so mythologist and illustrator Devdutt Pattanaik narrates the Ramayan, drawing attention to the many oral, visual and written retellings composed in different times by different poets, each one trying to solve the puzzle in their own unique way. This book approaches Ram by speculating on Sita—her childhood with her father, Janak, who hosted sages mentioned in the Upanishads; her stay in the forest with her husband who had to be a celibate ascetic while she was in the prime of her youth; her interactions with the women of Lanka, recipes she exchanged, emotions they shared; her connection with the earth, her mother; her role as the Goddess, the untamed Kali as well as the demure Gauri, in transforming the stoic prince of Ayodhya into God. Ramayana isn't a single text. It is a belief, a tradition, a subjective truth, a thought materialized, ritualized and celebrated through narrations, songs, dances, sculptures, plays, paintings, and puppets across hundreds of locations over hundreds of years.' But where did it all originate? It is believed that when Shakti wanted to hear a tale that had the power to comfort during turbulent times, Shiva narrated the Ramayana. It is from this brief exchange that all that came followed. With What Shiva Told Shakti, Devdutt Pattanaik offers a brief glimpse into the vast and historical tradition that is the Ramayana. From

versions and formats to cultures and countries, explore the epic with the master himself.

Shyam

The Illustrated Ramayana

Ganesha

Shiva

The Pregnant King

The Protector (Penguin Petit)

*'I am not sure that I am a man,' said Yuvanashva. 'I have created life outside me as men do. But I have also created life inside me, as women do. What does that make me? Will a body such as mine fetter or free me?' Among the many hundreds of characters who inhabit the Mahabharata, perhaps the world's greatest epic and certainly one of the oldest, is Yuvanashva, a childless king, who accidentally drinks a magic potion meant to make his queens pregnant and gives birth to a son. This extraordinary novel is his story. It is also the story of his mother Shilavati, who cannot be king because she is a woman; of young Somvat, who surrenders his genitals to become a wife; of Shikhandi, a daughter brought up as a son, who fathers a child with a borrowed penis; of Arjuna, the great warrior with many wives, who is forced to masquerade as a woman after being castrated by a nymph; of Ileshwara, a god on full-moon days and a goddess on new-moon nights; and of Adi-natha, the teacher of teachers, worshipped as a hermit by some and as an enchantress by others. Building on Hinduism's rich and complex mythology—but driven by a very contemporary sensibility—Devdutt Pattanaik*

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*creates a lush and fecund work of fiction in which the lines are continually blurred between men and women, sons and daughters, husbands and wives, fathers and mothers. Confronted with such fluidity the reader is drawn into Yuvanashva's struggle to be fair to all—those here, those there and all those in between.*

*Discover the Ramayana - one of India's most celebrated epics, and a story that transcends time itself. The tale of Rama, the exiled prince of Ayodhya who battles the evil Ravana, the king of Lanka, and rescues his abducted wife, Sita, is about much more than the eternal battle of good versus evil. It is a tale of love, friendship, loyalty, devotion, righteousness, and deliverance. Ramayana and Rama, whose journey is told in the epic, are embedded in India's cultural consciousness, but at the same time they transcend borders. Various versions of the Ramayana can be found across the Indian subcontinent and in parts of southeast Asia.*

*Created in consultation with distinguished economist, scholar, and translator, Dr Bibek Debroy, The Illustrated Ramayana draws from one of its earliest composers, the celebrated sage and poet Valmiki. It uses a combination of text and stunning images drawn from a variety of sources - from historic and contemporary artefacts, paintings, photographs, and performances - to tell Rama's story, as he walks the path that destiny creates for him.*

*Eden is the garden of happiness that humanity was cast out of when Adam and Eve, the first human couple, disobeyed the one true God, and ate the fruit of the forbidden tree. To this garden we shall return if we follow God's law and accept God's love, conveyed through his many messengers, the first of whom was Abraham. This is the essence of Abrahamic lore that emerged over 3000 years ago in the Near East, blossomed in the Middle East, and has since spread to every corner of the world in three forms: Judaism, that still awaits the final*

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*messenger. Christianity, that views Jesus Christ as the final messenger and the Son of God. Islam, that views Muhammad as the final messenger. In his uniquely Indian style of storytelling, intimate but not irreverent, Devdutt Pattanaik introduces the readers to the many tales of angels, demons, prophets, patriarchs, judges and kings. It also retells stories from Mesopotamian, Egyptian and Zoroastrian mythologies that influenced Abrahamic monotheism in its long 5000-year-old history.*

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*What Shiva Told Shakti*

*Shiva to Shankara*

*An Illustrated Retelling of the Bhagavata*  
*The Timeless Epic of Duty, Love, and Redemption*  
*The Girl Who Chose*  
*What Came First*

*Reflecting on one of Hinduism's most popular prayer for positive energy Acclaimed mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik demystifies the Hanuman Chalisa for the contemporary reader. His unique approach makes the ancient hymn accessible, combined as it is with his trademark illustrations. Every time we experience negativity in the world and within ourselves, every time we encounter jealousy, rage and frustration, manifesting as violation and violence, we hear, or read, the Hanuman Chalisa. Composed over four hundred years ago by Tulsidas, its simple words in Awadhi, a dialect of Hindi and its simple metre, musically and very potently evoke the mythology, history and mystery of Hanuman, the much-loved Hindu deity, through whom Vedic wisdom reached the masses. As verse follows verse, our frightened, crumpled mind begins to expand with knowledge and insight and our faith in humanity, both within and without, is restored. The three devis are forms of Shakti and consorts of the three*

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*gods—but aren't the Tridevi superior to the Trimurti? Did the Devi come before the Bhagvan, or after? Can it be true that without Shakti, Shiva is dead? Finding the feminism in spirituality, Devdutt shows us the intrinsic balance built into Hindu scripture and culture through our goddesses. Annapurna shows Shiva that no matter how ascetic, even sages need food to eat, and that there is greatness in feeding the hungry. Durga showed Shiva that a monster that cannot be killed by a deva or asura might be killed by a woman instead. Saraswati and Laxmi—knowledge and wealth—are the fruit of labour, born of desire. Find out more about an ancient tradition of venerating the female in a natural equality in this short and sweet read from Devlok.*

*Itihas means this is how it was, this is how it is, and this is how it will continue to be. It means history, but it also means timeless. The Ramayana and the Mahabharata form a rich tapestry of Indian itihas. Which came first—the Ramayana or the Mahabharata? Are they actually historical events? Which one has Krishna's raas-leela? Where is Shiva in this? What about the Devi? India's favourite mythologist Devdutt Pattanaik tells you*

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*everything you didn't know about our myths—a story born 2000 years ago teaching us the ageless tale of how to live in grace. Did you know the Laxman-rekha didn't exist in the original Ramayana? Or that Radha is never mentioned in the original Krishna story? Perfect for this festive season, find out all this and more in this short, sweet read from Devlok. How do myths and stories influence culture? What is the difference between one culture and another, and how did these differences come to be? Are cultures fixed or do they change over time? Devdutt Pattanaik, India's leading mythologist, breaks down the complex maze of stories, symbols and rituals to examine how they shape cultures. He investigates how stories influence perception and construct truths, the cultural roots of the notion of evil and reveals the need for mythology through a telling of various Indian and Western myths. In doing so, he shows how myths reflect the culture they emerge from while simultaneously reinforcing the source. Culture is a groundbreaking work that contextualizes mythology and proposes that myths are alive, dynamic, shaped by perception and the times one lives in.*

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*Olympus*

*The Resurrection of Evil*

*An Illustrated Retelling of the Ramayana*

*Sita*

*The Ultimate Tapasvin (Penguin Petit)*

*Decoding Hindu Mythology*

He is Eka-vachani, a king who always keeps his word; Eka-bani, an archer who strikes his target with the first arrow; and Eka-patni, a husband who is eternally and absolutely devoted to a single wife. He is maryada purushottam Ram, the supreme upholder of social values, the scion of the Raghu clan, jewel of the solar dynasty, the seventh avatar of Vishnu, God who establishes order in worldly life. Hindus believe that in stressful and tumultuous times chanting Ram's name and hearing his tale, the Ramayan, brings stability, hope, peace and prosperity. Reviled by feminists, appropriated by politicians, Ram remains serene in his majesty, the only Hindu deity to be worshipped as a king.

Did Brahma create the universe? Was it born out of the sacrifice of Prajapati? Did his wife Shatarupa create animals while being pursued by him? Or was it all a product of Manu? A Vedic poet says that for anything to be created in the universe, it must be preceded by desire. If desire is the seed, the cosmos is its fruit. A Shaiva story says that in the beginning there was a golden woman in the shape of a lotus, and when it bloomed, Brahma was in it, and he then divided into Shiva and Shakti. The Vaishnava tradition says that in the beginning, everything was asleep –

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and then Vishnu awoke, and the first creation was born of the fear of loneliness. The Shakta tradition says that before the earth was born, Shiva was doing tapasya and there was pralaya – everything was frozen and barren. Then Parvati emerged from the mountain and seduced and married him. The heat or energy within him was then released and the snow started to melt and the earth became fertile. Which is it? Discover all these origin myths and more in this short, sweet read from Devlok.

This special gift edition brings together Devdutt Pattanaik's lavishly illustrated and immensely popular retellings of India's greatest epics - the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. *Jay: An Illustrated Retelling of the Mahabharata* In this entralling retelling, Devdutt Pattanaik seamlessly weaves into a single narrative plots from the Sanskrit classic as well as its many folk and regional variants. Richly illustrated with over 250 line drawings by the author, the 108 chapters abound with little-known details such as the names of the hundred Kauravas, the Mahabharata version of the Ramayana, and the dating of the war based on astronomical data. *Jay* reveals the eternal relevance of the Mahabharata, the complex and disturbing meditation on the human condition that has shaped Indian thought for over 3000 years. *Sita: An Illustrated Retelling of the Ramayana* Devdutt Pattanaik approaches Ram by speculating on Sita: her childhood with her father, Janaka, who hosted sages mentioned in the Upanishads; her stay in the forest with her husband, who had to be celibate ascetic while she was in the prime of her youth; her interactions with the women of Lanka, recipes she exchanged, emotions they shared; her connection with the earth, her mother, and with the trees, her sisters; her role as the Goddess, the untamed Kali as

well as the demure Gauri, in transforming the stoic prince of Ayodhya into God. When an ancient artefact is stolen from National Museum, Delhi, a reckless and stubborn Police officer, ACP Aryan, is placed at the helm of the case. The people on the hunt for the artefact are seemingly ordinary criminals - an antique robber, an Irish national, and a sand mafia. But as Aryan uncovers each layer of the truth, he discovers that his adversaries are the descendants of mythical Asuras. From the gateway to Lord Vishnu - Haridwar - to God's own country - Kerala - from fiery pursuits to narrow escapes, the mystery of the artefact draws Aryan into a lethal maze of vengeance, betrayal, and dreadful secrets. With time slipping out of the hands like sand, Aryan must unravel the mystery of the artefact, for this case is not just a game of Good vs Evil; it is a deadly game of Good vs Ancient Evil. The Resurrection of Evil is an irresistible page-turner; a modern day mythological thriller with exhilarating twists and turns and fascinating stories from Indian, Irish, and Mayan mythology.

A New Way of Narrating the Ramayana

Food Of The Gods (Penguin Petit)

A Female Power (Penguin Petit)

50 Insights from Mythology

and Other Tales They Don't Tell You

An Illustrated Retelling of the Mahabharata

**Are the illustrious clans of the Mahabharata from Surya Vansh or Chandra Vansh?**

**Which yuga does the Ramayana occur in and does it occur only once? What do haldi,**

kumkum, bhasm or chandan signify in a puja thali? After the sensational response to Season 1 of EPIC Channel's Devlok with Devdutt Pattanaik, Devdutt invited his viewers and readers to ask him questions about Hindu mythology, which he has answered over thirty thrilling episodes. Prepare to be educated, entertained and moved as Devdutt delves into the exhilarating variety of Hindu mythology. In this volume, you will discover the difference between dhyān and darshan, āstik and nāstik, Surya Vansh and Chandra Vansh. There are amusing stories about your favourite Hanuman and fascinating facts about the dark Vishnu avatars, Varaha and Narasimha. Learn why Lakshmi or Saraswati are always in conflict and how women have the most intriguing characters in mythological tales. Journey deeper into the magical world of Hindu mythology with Devdutt and you'll never want to turn back.

High above the sky stands Swarga, paradise, abode of the gods. Still above is Vaikuntha, heaven, abode of God. The doorkeepers of Vaikuntha are the twins, Jaya and Vijaya, both whose names mean 'victory'. One keeps you in Swarga; the other raises you into Vaikuntha. In Vaikuntha there is bliss forever, in Swarga there is pleasure for only as long as you deserve. What is the difference between Jaya and Vijaya? Solve this puzzle and you will solve the mystery of the Mahabharata. In this enthralling retelling of India's greatest epic, the Mahabharata, originally known as Jaya, Devdutt Pattanaik seamlessly weaves into a single narrative plots from the Sanskrit classic as well as its many folk and regional variants, including the Pandavani of Chattisgarh, Gondhal of Maharashtra, Terukkuttu of Tamil Nadu, and Yakshagana of Karnataka. Richly illustrated with over 250 line drawings by the author, the 108 chapters abound with little-known

details such as the names of the hundred Kauravas, the worship of Draupadi as a goddess in Tamil Nadu, the stories of Astika, Madhavi, Jaimini, Aravan and Barbareek, the Mahabharata version of the Shakuntalam and the Ramayana, and the dating of the war based on astronomical data. With clarity and simplicity, the tales in this elegant volume reveal the eternal relevance of the Mahabharata, the complex and disturbing meditation on the human condition that has shaped Indian thought for over 3000 years. From the bestselling author of Karna's Wife, comes this book about Urmila, Sita's sister and the neglected wife of Lakshman, and one of the most overlooked characters in the Ramayana. As Sita prepares to go into exile, her younger sisters stay back at the doomed palace of Ayodhya, their smiles, hope and joy wiped away in a single stroke. And through the tears and the tragedy one woman of immense strength and conviction stands apart-Urmila, whose husband, Lakshman, has chosen to accompany his brother Ram to the forest rather than stay with his bride. She could have insisted on joining Lakshman, as did Sita with Ram. But she did not. Why did she agree to be left behind in the palace, waiting for her husband for fourteen painfully long years? Every karma is a seed and every action has a reaction – and sometimes, a boon or a curse. Can an action ever be completely bad or good? Why do rishis curse so much? Can the gods be cursed? Which is the most intelligent curse? Are there only two choices? Or can there be a point between good and bad, vardaan and shraap, punya and paap. Once a curse or boon has been offered, can it ever be taken back? Filled with stories of famous curses and amusing anecdotes, this explores the notion of being a good person, but also deciding the goodness or lack thereof in another. Find out about

**the many facets of karma and ethics in this short, sweet read from Devlok.**

**Decoding the Phallic Symbol**

**(Penguin Petit)**

**Eden**