

## **A STUDY OF THE NOVEL 'THE SECRET OF THE NAGAS' IN AMISH TRIPATHI'S SHIVA TRILOGY**

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### **Abstract**

Shiva along with his troop of soldiers went to the land of Branga, where he wished to find a hint to reach the Naga people. Shiva also ascertains that Sati's first child is still alive, as well as her twin sister, Kali. Parshuram is a warrior, a son of Jamadagni, a brahmin scholar, and Renuka, a daughter of Branga Kshatriya rulers, and beheaded his mother and, also close relatives of his mother by his mother's order. There was a complete democracy in Panchavati because, every law was decided by Naga Rajya Sabha, the elected royal council, and not the Naga queen. The author was delighted to say that there is a lot of democracy in the people of Naga. Panchavati was built on a raised platform just like Meluha cities which had been established by Bhoomidevi, a non-Naga lady. The Nagas lead the best life which is the combination of Suryavanshis and the Chandravanshis way of life. Shiva felt that Nagas maybe the people who suffered the most at the hands of Evil. He ultimately reached the Naga capital of Panchavati, where he found a surprise waiting for him. A Surprise waiting in the classroom was his long-lost friend, his brother 'Brihaspati' which was the main secret of Nagas. This paper is an attempt to study and analyze how Tripathi has recreated Indian Myth in his Novel 'The Secrets of the Nagas' in his *Shiva Trilogy*.

**Key Words:** Panchavati, Kali, Ganesh, Godavari, Naga people, Brihaspati, Bull racing

### **Introduction**

India is a combination of people with multiple cultures and traditions. Amish Tripathi has chosen mythology to focus on Indian culture and traditions. Amish Tripathi makes use of the ancient Indian mythology of Shiva and mixes it with fiction. Mythological literature has become a recent phenomenon in Indian Writing in English. Amish's Shiva is not as refined as the one in Ramesh Menon's *The Siva Purana Retold* (10), but his characters show more than one emotion or motivation. Shiva and Sati are military strategists, true friends, and loving parents.

### **Literature Review**

Sanjay M Nandagavalli published a paper on 'A study of Anachronism used in the novels of Amish Tripathi's in which the author revealed the presence of Anachronism in the theory of

light and the existence of liger (2). Satish Kumar and Raj Kumar Saini published a paper which deals with the major paradigm of the twenty-first century (7). S. Vijaya Prabavathi published a paper on the recreation of Myth in Amish Tripathi's Shiva Trilogy in which she focused on the myth related to Indian God Shiva by mixing it with scientific facts and social fantasies (8). S. Saravanan, and M. Nandhini have published a paper on 'An Archetypal study of Amish Tripathi's novels the Immortals of Meluha, The Secret of the Nagas of Indian literature, and Chinua Achebe's Things fall apart, African literature in which the authors have concentrated on one commonality among the novels (9). The only difference between them is the previous one used Karma and later one used the word *chi* (personal god) *instead* of karma. Keeping the literature in view, an attempt has been made to study and analyze Amish's 'The Secrets of the Nagas' in his Shiva Trilogy.

The Shiva Trilogy-Part 2 consists of twenty-three chapters, which are being summarized below.

## **The Secret of The Nagas**

### **The strange Demon**

Shiva and Sati fought with Naga and hated him because he killed Shiva's brother and the torturer of his wife. Shiva said that Chandravanshis was not evil. Now his mission is different. Shiva did not believe that Chandravanshis are associated with the Nagas. Dilipa said that in their empire, every kingdom has the right to its king, its own rules, and is their way of life. They pay Ayodhya a tribute because they defeated them in battle through the great Ashwamedh Yagna (horse sacrifice). Chandravanshis are not like the idealistic Suryavanshis, and they do not insist on everyone following one single law. Dilipa informed Shiva that it is the only Kingdom in Swadweep that the Brangas stooped to trade with. Furthermore, there are many emigrants from Branga settled in Kashi. Daksha is the Emperor of Meluha and Swadweep whereas Dilipa's kingdom paid a hundred thousand gold coins to Meluha which Daksha had donated to the Ramajanmabhoomi temple in Ayodhya. The Dilipa was delighted that despite losing the war with the Suryavanshis, he retained his empire and his independence. Shiva thinks that Bhagirath is a capable person. When Bhagirath hits the face of his horse due to its a mischievous act, Shiva warned not to hit the horse because it is not the problem of the horse and it is the problem of an unknown person who did mischief by putting the nail in the leather belt and keeping it near to the mouth so that it pricks the horse. Shiva showed concern and cautioned Bhagirath that It seems somebody had planned to kill Bhagirath indirectly. Bhagirath became a good and genuine follower of Shiva even ready to give his life for Shiva.

### **Sailing down the Sarayu**

Anandamayi would like to halt at the Bal-Atibal Kund where Lord Ram, his brother Lakshman and his guru Vishwamitra had taught Lord Ram legendary skills to massacre demon Tadaka. Parvateshwar was pleased at her devotion to Lord Ram. Shiva, Sati, Parvateshwar, Ayurvati, Bhagirath, and Anandamayi sat in the innermost circle next to the pandit. Nandi, Veerbhadra, Drapaku, Krittika, and the men of Suryavanshi and Chandravanshi army sat a little further back to see the puja ceremony.

The Naga queen, prime minister Karkotak and her followers went to the capital, Panchavati immediately to attend the discussion on the issue of extension of medical support to the Brangas which would come up in the Rajya Sabha, the Naga royal council.

Shiva wanted to visit the Narasimha temple on the outskirts of the Magadh city but Siamantak was in the pilot boat of Andhak, port minister of Magadh, asked to pay portage charged to enter the Magadh but how could the Emperor's ship pay carriage in his empire? Magadh was once the main trading center and it is highly convenient for merchants to travel on river ports on the Sarayu or Ganga. They lost the advantage after they were defeated by Ayodhya.

One hundred years back, Yamuna changed its' direction from Meluha to Swadweep and met the Ganga at Prayag which immediately became an important trading center. Any trader or kingdom that wants to trade in the newly opened coastal lands of the Yamuna had to pay charges at Prayag. When the Suryavanshis won the battle over Chandravanshis, a dam was built on the Yamuna to turn the flow towards Meluha and the importance of Prayag fell again. King Mahendra is suspicious and puts spies to drag the information from time to time.

The Magadhan leader was grabbing a little boy from a woman to drive his bulls in a dangerous bull racing to victory. The boys between the ages of six and eight were considered perfect as they have lightweight. Therefore, tribal children who lived in nearby forests were often kidnapped to make them slave riders for the bullfight. Magadhan's leader wanted to kill the woman because she was not leaving her son when Magadhan soldier raised his sword, Naga's knife struck his hand and the sword dropped harmlessly to the ground. But there is the platoon of the Magadhan soldiers at the back. One of the soldiers released an arrow at the Naga who fell-down. Magadhan leader shouted at Nagas to go back. Immediately the Magadhan leader declared him as a prince of Magadh, Ugrasen claiming his land and asked Nagas to vacate the place. Ugrasen said that it was his kingdom and can do whatever he wants. But Nagas did not listen to his words and charged the Magadhans and killed Ugrasen under the direction of his leader.

### **The Pandit of Magadh**

Magadh was a smaller town than Ayodhya and did not have the awesome organization of Devagiri and the soaring architecture of Ayodhya. Shiva visited Lord Narasimha temple and felt that God looked like a man with the head of a Lion. Shiva met the Pandit Vasudev who had heard his thoughts with telepathy. Shiva heard the pandit's voice through telepathy. He is not a born a Vasudev but born Chandravanshi. He passed through competitive examination.

The Vasudev pandit at the Ramajanmabhoomi temple had told Shiva that his task must be finding out an evil. Panditji at Ramajanmabhoomi temple had told Shiva that the Suryavanshis represent the masculine life force and the Chandravanshis represent the feminine. Siamantak and Swadweepans were doubting at Surapadman, the younger Magadh Prince who is ruthless and could have arranged the killing of Ugrasen to claim the throne. Bhagirath did not agree and said that Surapadman is a capable son of King Mahendra and he has officially the throne and no need to kill his brother for it. Suryavanshis kept the secret of the identity of Shiva in Magadh because

the present king of Magadh does not follow the Neelkanth and the people here are king followers.

According to Shiva and Pandit, the main differences between human being and animals are communication and sharing of knowledge, work together (though some animals like elephants or lions do it as well) competition, maintaining peace, flowing power among human beings, togetherness, collaborating things, etc. Meluha is a perfect example of the masculine way of life whereas Swadweep is a perfect example of a feminine way of life. The asuras, who were followers of the masculine system, had faced many problems whereas the feminine brings a breath of fresh air and freedom. The feminine system gives more freedom to the people, they end with downfall, exploitation, and sinfulness. After seeing the decline of the feminine system Lord Ram created a new masculine way of life called the 'Suryavanshi path.' Panditji said every man and woman have a little bit of the Suryavanshi and a bit of the Chandravanshi within themselves. The intensity depends on person to person. He requests Shiva to identify the evil and convince Suryavanshis in one manner and the Chandravanshis in another manner and to influence them to give up their evil if it is attached. Jai guru Vishwamitra. Jai guru Vashisht.

### **The City where the Supreme Light Shines**

Surapadman's brother was killed in the forest along with some friends and bodyguards. He believes that Ayodhya may be behind the act. Surapadman showed a gold coin to shiva and asked him to recognize it. Shiva answered that the gold coin he recovered from the Naga is the same as the gold coin recovered by Surapadman. Surapadman has a spy work to know each and everything going on in the country. Surapadman wanted to report to the king of Magadh that prince Ugrasen died in Naga's terrorist attack in protecting Magadh from them and Ayodhya had no role in it.

Kashi was the most natural Chandravanshi city. The city had been built only along the western banks of the river turn, leaving its eastern banks exposed. It was believed that the royal family bought all the land on the eastern side of Kashi not to allow the people to construct houses and prevent them from natural suffering. Shiva felt that his child should be born in Kashi, a home-like city. Kashi kings implemented Lord Rudra's orders of non-violence to give a logical conclusion to their belief. Lord Rudra's teaching made Kashi sacred. A few years back it was circulated that the king of Kashi had asked Brangas to leave the land. Immediately the king of Brangas had sent gold equivalent to ten years of Kashi's tax collections to bury the leaving orders.

### **A Small Wrong**

In Kashi, a good temple, called Vishwanath temple of Lord Rudra has been built close to the Brahma ghat. Shiva said 'Om Rudraiy Namah' two times bowing to Lord Rudra. Kanini felt that the princess, Anandamayi was in love with Parvateshwar. Drapaku surprised the stability and peace in Kashi city. Athithigva said that Lord Rudra had spent most of his time in Kashi, calling it his adopted home. Athithigva intends that Shiva will be the successor of Lord Rudra to ascend the throne of Kashi. But Shiva wanted that he and his wife would like their child to be born in Kashi. Brangas who have killed a peacock once again (banned in the city) were caught

red-handed by their neighbours who are going to be taught a lesson. Riots were started and there is a struggle between Brangas and other citizens of Kashi. Parvateshwar asked Traty, the police chief to send some police to break up the riot. But Traty denied and said the Brangas purposely want to offend every one of Kashi citizens. This riot is a bad path to a good end. Parvateshwar replied that if they have committed a crime, they should be punished by Kashi courts and citizens have no right to hurt innocent people who had not participated in the killing of the bird. Traty rejected to do anything about riots. Parvateshwar had given the command to Drapaku to break the crowd with the help of Bhagirath. Traty immediately warned Parvateshwar not to interfere in their internal matters. Bhagirath remembered Lord Ram's words 'Standing by and doing nothing while sin is committed is as bad as sinning yourself.'

Parvateshwar, Bhagirath, Kaavas, Nandi, and Veerbhadra with a hundred men went to the Branga quarters, and they came to one conclusion that they will only injure, not kill Brangas by attacking them. Parvateshwar had spoken to the leaders of the Kashi mob, promising them justice if they dropped their weapons. Parvateshwar addressed Meluhans and ordered them to form a tortoise way because rocks thrown by Branga from that height can kill. They have entered the quarters.

Shiva and Sati had just entered the great Vishwanath temple. The idols of lady Mohini and Lord Rudra were front to back sharing a complex relationship. Kritika was believed that lady Mohini deserved the title of the propagator of good. Shiva heard the voice of Vasudev pandit from a nearby distance.

### **Even a Mountain Can Fall**

Suryavanshis charged the Brangas and injured them but killed none. Parvateshwar got injured heavily. Branga people were giving peacock blood to quieten the children who were crying. Branga high priests pleaded with Bhagirath that the blood is needed for their babies and they will die without it and requested to save them. Somras was administered to Parvateshwar by Ayurvati. Divodas met Bhagirath and Nandi and said that Parvateshwar has saved his entire tribe from certain death and saved his wife and unborn child. Divodas has given a small silk packet containing the medicine to Bhagirath and asked Bhagirath to apply it on the temple and nostrils of general Parvateshwar to save his life. Ayurvati smelt the paste brought by Bhagirath from Divodas, stunned, and applied the same to Parvateshwar. Anandmayi initially expressed sorry to listen about the attack on Parvateshwar and later felt happy in listening that his life is out of danger. The Lord Neelkanth and Ayurvati enquired Bhagirath where did he get the medicine from. Bhagirath replied that he had got it from Brangas. Ayurvati revealed that this medicine is made from the bark of the Sanjeevani tree which is stabilized by another tree that grows south of the Narmada river in Naga's territory. Divodas took blessings from Shiva. Shiva got the information from Divodas about the availability of the medicine. King Chandraketu gives the Nagas an untold amount of gold and a large supply of men in return for the medicines only to save the people of Branga.

### **Birth Pangs**

As Neelkanth had declared Daksha the Emperor of all of India, Chandravanshi's flag is hoisted slightly lower than Suryavanshi's flag. Shiva asked Pandit how he can hear other's thoughts. Pandit replied that it was because of radio waves which can travel far, fast just like light. He continued to say that a machine is till now not created to convert radio waves into sound waves but succeeded in training some of the people brains to catch radio waves though much practice is needed for it. Shiva got the technique of catching the thoughts of others by chance without proper training or practice. In this regard the temples act as good transmitters because they are normally fifty meters in height and helps in catching radio waves, converting them into thoughts.

Kashi pandit gave a small silk pouch to Shiva and asked him to apply the thick Reddish-brown paste of medicine on his wife's belly to give birth to a healthy and strong child. Ayurvati applied as directed by pandit through Lord Shiva. Ayurvati rushed out to Shiva and told that his wife delivered a strong, handsome, powerful boy and named Kartik after the name of Krittika.

### **The Mating Dance**

Daksha and Veerni had seen their grandchild, Kartik, and had felt happy. The citizens of Kashi customarily celebrated the birth of a child with the mask and dance after seven days of his birth. Shiva performed his dance on an open stage on the occasion. The Audience applauded his heart-touching dancing skills with a five-minute standing ovation. Sati was distracted during his performances because her father was against Meluhan's rules and Lord Ram's principles and allotting so much somras to his child Kartik at the cost of other Meluhan people.

Anandmayi and Uttanka danced very closer to each other throughout the performance like Vishwamitra and Menaka. It was a remarkable performance and the audience applauded like anything with whistles. Later Anandmayi had introduced Uttanka to Parvateshwar and requested him to include in the Neelkanth's brigade as a soldier. Parvateshwar immediately rejected the proposal due to his fitness and wanted to test him whether he was physically fit or not because he was already declared as a physically challenged person and had been removed from his service. Parvateshwar tested Uttanka by direct fighting with him, satisfied with his ability towards fighting, and welcomed him into the Meluhan army.

Though Kartik is the emperor's grandson, he should not be given top priority in every aspect especially regarding somras according to Lord Ram's rules which say 'an emperor put his people above his family.' Daksha said repeatedly that he is not a lawbreaker and will not benefit Kartik at the cost of others due to Raj Dharma. Daksha revealed the secret about the existence of another manufacturing unit of somras. Ayurvati revealed the secret about Divodas medicine which saved Kartik's life. Ayurvati continued to say that within the womb, the fetal membrane gets wrapped around the baby's neck. In some of these cases, the baby may not survive. She feels that it is what may have happened with princess Sati's first child as well. Kartik has the umbilical cord wrapped around his neck. But this time, Ayurvati applied for Divodas medicine on Princess Sati's belly. It deeply penetrates the womb and gave Kartik the strength to survive those few crucial moments till he slipped out. Divodas medicine saved his life.

### **What is Your Karma?**

Shiva's uncle said that he did not live with the consequence of other people's karma. He lives with the consequences of his own. He has shown a medicine to Shiva and said that it is a very precious medicine carried it for a long time and Shiva is the correct person to receive it. Shiva's uncle said, "My child, your destiny is much larger than these massive mountains. But to realize it, you will have to cross these very same massive mountains."---142 of the secret of Nagas

Shiva's uncle applied some of the reddish-brown paste on Shiva's brow, some paste around Shiva's throat, a remaining portion in the Shiva's right palm along with a little bit of blood of his right finger and asked Shiva to put it in his mouth, to massage it with Shiva's tongue till it gets absorbed. Shiva did it and felt immediate relief. The author of the book 'The Secret of Nagas' wanted to say that Lord Shiva is familiar with Naga medicine which was given to him by his uncle in his childhood. Vasudev's wanted to save his son to encourage us to fight evil.

Once a week, a collection of sad songs had been played in the streets of Panchavati at the evening which the queen had wanted to ban but opposed by Naga Rajya Sabha, the elected royal council. The author wanted to say that there is a lot of democracy in the people of Naga. The song they used to play is given below.

"You were my world, my God, my creator.  
 And yet, you abandoned me.  
 I didn't seek you, you called me.  
 And yet, you abandoned me.  
 I honoured you, lived by your rules, coloured myself in your colours.  
 And yet, you abandoned me.  
 You hurt me. you deserted me, you failed in your duties.  
 And yet, I am the monster.  
 Tell me, Lord, What can I....."144 of The Secret of the Nagas

### **The Gates of Branga**

Parvateshwar made it clear that Lord Neelkanth did not want any bloodshed whenever they want to enter the restricted Branga territory. Divodas requested Uma to permit to meet the King on a matter of national importance. But Uma rejected to permit Divodas who was accompanied by Bhagirath, prince of Ayodhya to get permission. But Uma did not want to break the rules at the cost of the prince of Ayodhya though he is a prince of Swadweep. Uma said that they were obeying the terms of the Ashwamedh treaty and sending a tribute annually and Ayodhya never enters Branga. When Uma pushed Shiva and said that 'Get out of here.' Uma was shocked to see the Neelkanth with his blue throat and the Branga soldiers went down on their knees, heads bowed in respect with tears. Now Shiva requested Uma to pass through. Uma with tears asked where he had been until now. Another Branga friend of Divodas told him that Uma lost her only child to the plague.

### **The Mystery of Eastern Palace**

Sati swam into the Ganga to reach the main courtyard of the palace where she could see King Athithigva, his wife, his son, Nagas, and three ancient-looking attendants holding puja thalis(plates) to perform a rakhi ceremony. The Naga had one body, two arms, four shoulders, and two heads. Maya, one of the sisters of Athithigva tied rakhi to Athithigva who gave the gifts to his sister. Athithigva gave the sword to one sister and Veena to another sister.

Sati drew her sword and asked Athithigva why he had sheltered Nagas and hiding from his people. Athithigva replied that he was not sheltering Nagas but he is engaging with his sisters. More-over his people know about his sisters. Even Lord Rudra did not reject anyone and said that judge a person by his karma, not by his appearance. Sati never hates Nagas, but she had talked about the rules to be followed. Nagas conveyed that Lord Ram also said rules are not ultimate and are made to create a just and stable society. She pointed out that the Sati was once vikrama by rule. But Shiva changed the rule. The vikrama law may have made sense a thousand years back. But at present it became unfair. Athithigva pleaded that his father made him swear on his death bed that he would protect his sisters. He could not break his pledge. For the first time, Sati was confronted with the viewpoint of a Naga. Sati promised them to keep quiet in this matter. Drapaku and Divodas said that the Brahmaputra is the largest river in India with a masculine name. They believe the Brahmaputra and Ganga are the father and mother of the Branga (Bra from Brahmaputra and anga from Ganga).

Anandmayi asked Parvateshwar about the story of taking the vow of life-long Celibacy behind. Two hundred and fifty years ago, the Maika system was relaxed for noble people. His grandfather Lord Satyadwaj opposed the relaxation given to noble families and nobody cared because he was single. This led his grandfather vowed that he or his adopted Maika heirs would never have birth children.

### **The Heart of Branga**

The Branga land is highly fertile land covered with the silt of Branga River. Brangaridai (the heart of Branga), the capital of Branga kingdom lay on the main distributary of the Branga river, the Padma. Branga people under the leadership of Prime minister Bappiraj of Branga and King Chandraketu built superb and well-maintained buildings, public monuments, stadia for performances, halls for celebrations, public greenhouses, and baths. The bigger challenge for Brangas is simply staying alive particularly to protect them from the plague.

The people of Garuda (Nagas) and the rest of Nagas are enemies for a long time. After negotiations for peace, lady Suparna has brought the people of Garuda into the joint Naga family and had joined the Rajya Sabha as a trusted right-hand woman of the queen. Both are siblings now.

Bhoomidevi, a mysterious non-Naga lady established the present way was respected and honoured as a goddess. One of her guidelines was that a Naga must repay in turn for everything that he receives. This is the only way to clear their karma of sins. Queen again said that Branga people have been giving three-quarters of the gold for the advance payment for the medicines for the next thirty years. In honouring Bhoomidevi principles, they have no choice except to supply the medicines to them.



Now the main aim of Shiva is to supply Naga medicine to Branga people to know a way to Panchavati. Divodas revealed to Shiva that Parshuram knows how to make Naga medicine. He knows the sources of the plant from beyond the Mahanadi River which lies to the southwest. He has psychological problems, kills Kshatriyas, and refuses to share the Naga medicine with anyone for any cost. He even beheaded his mother. Parvateshwar immediately and shockingly remembered that he is the sixth Lord Vishnu who lived thousands of years ago.

### **Man-eaters of Icchawar**

Shiva, Bhagirath, Parvateshwar, Anandmayi, Divodas, Drapaku, Purvaka, Nandi, Veerbhadra, and Ayurvati went to the dense forest land near the Godavari to arrest Parshuram.

The Headman of Icchawar requested Sati to please leave the place. Sati enquired the brahmin Suryaksh about twenty soldiers who were killed by the lions last night.

Shiva plans to go to Parshuram with a hundred men deep inside the forest.

### **The Battle of Madhumati**

Sati had seen 'Liger' (a combination of a lion and a tigress). Liger urinated around the area, marking his territory again. Sati released two arrows that hit Liger and Lioness. They retreated into the forest. Villagers feel that the lions will not come back. But Sati said that there is no third option except fighting or fleeing. But the village cleaner was motivated by villagers to sacrifice himself and his family for the welfare of the rest of the village people to throw the evil spirits away. Sati was not in favour of villager's sentiments. Sati wanted to stay back till every lion has been killed.

Shiva emerged onto a beach where they found Parshuram with his gang and asked him to surrender. There was a huge fire created by Parshuram and his group with the help of arrows in the river. Parshuram and his men charged at a shiva and his men. However, Drapaku swung between shiva's group and Parshuram's group and charged Parshuram. Four hundred Suryavanshis came into the battle. Bhagirath, with the help of Divodas and two Suryavanshi soldiers, fought Parshuram to fall into the ground without any further injury to the bandit.

### **The Lord of the People**

Drapaku was severely injured and turned towards his father Purvaku and then back to Shiva. Shiva promised Drapaku that he will take care of his father. Then Drapaku died at peace finally. Purvaku's head collapsed on his son's shoulders. Shiva immediately ran to Parashuram where he had been tied up and drew out his sword, ready to behead the Bandit. Parashuram without fearing shouted 'Jai Guru Vishwamitra! Jai Guru Vashisht! Shiva dropped his sword and called Parshuram as 'Vasudev.' Parashuram finally identified Shiva as Neelkanth by looking at his blue throat and said what has he done, Forgive him, Lord. Forgive him because he did not know he was Neelkanth.

After the attack the previous night, the Liger had brought his whole army around thirty to attack the threat created by villagers. All Kashi soldiers were frightened. When the village

cleaner and his wife walked determinedly towards the Lions, Sati had jumped between the lions, and village cleaner and charged towards lions, keeping the sword held high. The liger charged at Sati. There was a big fight between Sati's team and Liger's army. A hundred Naga soldiers came to that place and charged at the lions viciously. All armies of Liger were killed except three who were able to escape. Sati had seen the hooded figure and who fought with Liger and lions and whose head looks like an elephant's head. The Naga had dreamt of this moment from his birth time. The elephant-headed Naga repeatedly asked Sati why she abandoned him after his birth? Sati asked Naga who was he? Naga queen entered the picture and sarcastically said that Sati is daddy's spoilt little girl and asked to stop playing innocent. Sati stunningly and repeatedly asked them who are they? After listening to Sati, the Naga queen wanted to kill Sati with her knife and asked the hooded figure to kill Sati. But the hooded figure stopped the Naga queen who later said to Sati that she is a twin sister, Kali of Sati. She also introduced the hooded figure as Sati's abandoned son, Ganesh. Sati was shocked to listen to her sister regarding her son. She went down on her knees, holding his face 'her son is alive.' She also said that she was innocent about past happenings. Sati pulled Ganesh's head down, kissing his forehead, holding him tight. Ganesh wrapped his arms around his mother and said 'Maa.' Sati started crying again, 'Her son' repeatedly.

### **Opposites Attract**

Parshuram requested Shiva to forgive him. Bhagirath was thinking of handover Parshuram to Branga people. Shiva and Parvateshwar were not interested in handover him and Shiva said that Parshuram would give them medicines.

Icchawar villagers rejoiced and removed the fear of Nagas from their minds because their lives had been saved by Nagas. Sati held her sister's hand and thanked her for taking care of his son for a long time.

Parshuram promised Shiva that he will take Brangas to Mount Mahendra in Kaling to get a stabilizing agent of the medicine. Parshuram offered his ship to Shiva and promised to tell where Nagas live. He also requested Shiva that he wanted to stay with him throughout his journey to Nagas. Shiva tried to convince Parvateshwar about the mutual love of Anandamayi with Parvateshwar. But Parvateshwar reminded the laws of Ram. But Shiva said that according to Ram despite laws justice is an important one though it breaks the law. Ultimately Parvateshwar had been convinced and went to Anandamayi to express his love. Anandamayi understands Parvateshwar's words and feelings and held his hand and taken him outside.

Ganesh and Kali did not want to go to Kashi along with Sati. But Sati strictly Said to her son and sister that they are her own and said they should stay forever wherever she stays though they are Nagas. As they pointed out about Shiva, then Sati replied that shiva will accept Ganesh

as the father of her son and Kali as a sister-in-law. Then, Kali realized the sisterly and motherly feelings of Sati and called Sati her elder sister, 'Didi.'

### **The Curse of Honour**

Parshuram felt that both Parvateshwar and Anandmayi with Suryavanshi and Chandravanshi thought processes, traditional enemies, frigid opposites, found love in each other like his parents. Parshuram started telling his story. His father, Jamadagni was a brahmin scholar. His mother was from the Kshatriya clan, rulers of Branga. His mother, Renuka loved his father. His father was a Vasudev Brahmin who cannot marry. His mother finally convinced his father to break the rules. His parents got married and had five sons. He was the youngest. His father had been expelled from their tribe when he had chosen to marry his mother. He wanted to enter Vasudevs as a Kshatriya and trained as a warrior. He went to Ujjain to the closest Vasudev temple for his examination. Later his grandfather had died. The men of his mother's family, her brothers and uncles attacked his father's gurukul and killed his brothers, students of his father, and beheaded his father leaving his mother alone saying 'honour kill.' His mother said that his father died because of her. It is her sin. She wants to die like her husband. At first, Parshuram did not understand what his mother says. And then she commanded her youngest son to behead her. Parshuram hesitated to do the same. But she ordered her son. He had no choice. She took a promise from his son to take avenge and kill every single one of her close relatives. Parshuram beheaded his mother and hunted down every single one of them. The Vasudev's expelled him. The Branga king sent Kshatriyas to arrest him twenty-one times but they could not. Nagas who fight for the oppressed, who never kill innocent people and fight for justice, brought him to the forest. Shiva was deep in thought. Kali confirmed that no innocents were killed in the Naga attacks. Kali accepted that they killed only temple Brahmins because they directly hurt them.

Shiva's Caravan reached Vaishali, a pretty city on the Ganga River and neighbourhood of Branga, which had a Vishnu temple with Lord Matsya. Shiva was deeply disturbed by what Parshuram had said about the Nagas. Shiva directly went to the temple without taking honour of King and people of Vaishali, paid his respects to the Lord, and searched for Vasudev. He finally talked to Gopal, chief guide of Vasudev's through radio waves or telepathy.

Kali, Ganesh and the Branga- Kashi soldiers were moving towards Kashi.

### **The Function of Evil**

Considering the mistake Shiva has already made, he is not going to attack anyone till he is sure to keep his future view in Nagas. Shiva felt that Nagas may be the ones who suffered the most at the hands of Evil. Shiva thought that "Maybe the Nagas deserve a hearing. Maybe everyone else has been unfair to them. Maybe they deserve the benefit of the doubt. But one of them had to answer to me. One of them awaits justice for Brahaspati's assassination...274 of The Secret of Nagas

Today, the villagers of Ichchawar and many of the Kashi soldiers have returned safely from the attack of lions is due to Kali and Ganesh and their men. They had saved Kashi police, and they deserve honour in return. The king thought about his sister Maya's miserable life,

practically imprisoned. The king initially hesitated them to stay at the Kashi but finally accepted the stay of Kali and Ganesh in the city.

Sati introduced Ganesh to Kartik as an elder brother. Ganesh offered Mango to Kartik. He grabbed the mango and said thanks, brother. When Shiva was searching for Sati at Dasashwamedh Ghat, Kartik with mango in his hand was running towards him calling 'Baba' repeatedly. Then Sati appeared before Shiva. Shiva said to Sati that Nagas are not all bad. Some Nagas may be bad just like in all communities. Sati said to Shiva that she has to say something very surprising, which was discovered recently, kept hidden from her until now about Nagas. Sati immediately revealed that Queen Kali being Naga is her twin sister who was abandoned by her father due to Naga characters and who saved Sati's life recently. Shiva accepted Kali into his family. Sati revealed another secret that her first child was not stillborn, still alive. Shiva was very delighted to see his son.

### **Rage of the Blue Lord**

Shiva went to Athithigva's palace and saw Kali, a carbon copy of Sati with two extra hands. When Shiva met Ganesh, Shiva showed a bracelet to Ganesh which may belong to Ganesh. Ganesh immediately and quietly took his bracelet from Shiva's hand. Then Shiva immediately identified that Ganesh was the killer of his brotherly friend, Brihaspati, and said that Ganesh had killed his brother and wanted to kill Ganesh but hesitated because he is his wife's son. Ganesh somehow did not want to reveal the secret behind the attack of Mount Mandar and wanted to make to put a full stop to the quarrel between the Shiva and Sati because of him.

Shiva asked Krittika to take Kartik to the nearest park, nearer to the Sankat Mochan temple. The wild animals attacked bodyguards, wounding some of them, and killing some of them and supposed to attack Krittika and Kartik. Ganesh went to save them from the wild animals. Ganesh, as a warrior could stop the wild animals until the soldiers killed them. Ganesh ultimately saw Shiva with his fading vision and said Baba that Kartik is safe and collapsed unconsciously.

### **Never Alone My Brother**

Parshuram spoke to Veerbhadra about Ganesh who assisted him to fight against the injustice he faced. Krittika said that Ganesh fought like a man possessed to save Kartik, nearly sacrificing his own life in the process, and said that Ganesh has a heart of Gold. Ganesh only arranged Naga medicine to save Kartik's life during his birth. Shiva told Nandi and Veerbhadra that Ganesh saved his son's life as well as his wife's life, and he must love him. Veerbhadra suspects that Chandandhwj did not die naturally.

### **The Maika Mystery**

Shiva wanted to introduce Kali and Ganesh to Daksha to make his face reading to know what he might have done in the past. Daksha went to the main throne room where Shiva and Nandi were present. Sati entered along with Ganesh and Kali. Daksha recognized Kali and

Ganesh and asked Sati what he has to do with them pointing towards Kali and Ganesh. Sati intentionally introduced them to Daksha as her elder sister and elder son. There was a big confrontation between Daksha, Shiva, and Sati. It was informed that Daksha by the rules and regulations of Meluha had abandoned Kali and Ganesh and hid the fact but not revealed to Sati. Shiva recognized from the face reading and the way he confronted them of Daksha as a culprit to abandon Kali and Ganesh and kill Chandandhwaj, first husband of Sati.

### **Two Sides, Same coin**

Daksha, Veerni, and their entourage had left for Devagiri. Ganesh wanted to show the secret to shiva after taking him to Panchavati. Later it was known that Brahmanayak was the man behind sending Kali into Naga though Daksha and Veerni wanted to go to Panchavati along with their daughters, proposed by Veerni, Kali and Sati, Daksha had tempted to become Emperor offered by Brahmanayak and stayed back from escaping into Panchavati without informing his father. Shiva said that Ganesh has done much to make him think that he is a good man.

Shiva, Sati, Kartik, Ganesh, Veerbhadra, Nandi, Krittika, Ayurvati, Bhagirath, Parshuram, Parvateshwar, Vishwadyumna and his platoon, Uttanka, two thousand soldiers, both Chandravanshi and Suryavanshi were travelling to Panchavati via Vaishali.

### **The Secret of All Secrets**

Now the convoy was only a day away from the Naga capital, Panchavati. They were camped at a place nearer to a mighty river, the Godavari. Suddenly many conch shells have been dropped nearby the camp from the riverside. Ganesh found some enemy ships at Godavari River. Fire arrows were coming from the riverside and attacking some people at the camp, setting clothes on fire, piercing through many bodies injuring large in number, and killing some unfortunate people. The curtain of arrows raining down continuously. The Naga soldiers, the Suryavanshi soldiers, and Chandravanshi soldiers were pushing small boats towards the large ships in the Godavari river and set aflame. All five ships were immediately aflame which leads to the explosion of all ships due to Daivi Astras they are carrying. Ganesh had lost his one hundred soldiers whereas others had lost two hundred soldiers. All enemy soldiers were washed out. Nagas had sent food and medical supplies to the spot where the struggle took place.

Panchavati was built on a raised platform just like Meluha cities which had been established by Bhoomidevi, a non-Naga lady. The Nagas live the best life which is the combination of both the Suryavanshis and the Chandravanshis way of life. Satyam, Sundaram (truth and beauty) were written on above city gates. In the city, every single house was of identical design and size without any exception to the Naga queen's house. Then they have full freedom to decide the way of their life obeying the city rules. Nagas cannot have natural children and they normally bring the deformed children from Meluha and Swadweep, adopt them as their own. There was a school, a temple, dedicated to Lord Rudra and Lady Mohini, a public bath and stadium with fifty thousand occupancies. Shiva asked Ganesh where was the secret? Ganesh said that it was in school. Shiva expected that the secret of the Nagas is to be a book. Shiva and Ganesh stood before the curtained entrance of a classroom and listened to a familiar voice, teaching philosophies. The Teacher teaches that desire is for creation and destruction. Without

desire there is nothing. Shiva expected that there must be a Vasudev pandit in that room. Shiva wants to go to the Library to read the secret as early as possible with the highest curiosity. Kali revealed that the secret is not a thing, but it is a man. Ganesh told Shiva that a man is waiting inside for him. Ganesh drew the curtain aside and said to Guruji, please forgive him for the interruption and said the lord Neelkanth is here.

Shiva entered and was stunned by seeing the teacher inside the classroom. The teacher said to Shiva that he is waiting for him. Shiva recognized him as his long-lost friend, his brother 'Brihaspati.

### **Conclusion**

Shiva said that Chandravanshis was not evil. Ayodhya compromised with the laws of Lord Ram due to overpopulation and enjoys more freedom when compared with Meluhans. In Magadha, People are inhumane to the animals in the name of religious traditions like bull racing. Nagas fight against child labour and human trafficking. Kartik is a smart kid or gifted child who learns all skills at a very premature age than normal. Men and animals fight for their areas. Many animals were killed by humans for their sake. It is a sad thing to read. Shiva proves that he is a social reformer by marrying widowed Sati, accepting Ganesh, born out of her first marriage, as his son. This act had made him open-minded humanely. People of Meluha, Swadeep, Branga, and Naga became his followers. Vasudev's are scientists and informers who live in temples which serve as transmitters from where they communicate with each other through radio waves, which can travel far, fast just like light. A machine is till now not created to transmit thoughts from one into another. Vasudev's brains have been trained successfully to catch radio waves or thoughts though much practice is needed for it. Shiva got the technique of catching the thoughts of others by chance without proper training or practice. In this regard the temples act as good transmitters because they are normally fifty meters in height and helps in catching radio waves, converting them into thoughts.

Considering the mistake Shiva has already made, he is not going to attack anyone till he is sure to keep his future view in Nagas. The men of Parshuram's mother's family, her brothers and uncles attacked his father's gurukul and killed his brothers, students of his father and beheaded his father leaving his mother alone saying 'honour kill.' Shiva has been trying to save Sati from the Nagas. He travels with his soldiers to Branga to find a way to go to the Naga people. Shiva was surprised to know that Sat's first child, Ganesh is still alive and, also had seen Kali and came to know as Sati's twin sister. Daksha and Sati follow Rajadharma throughout Amish Tripathi's novels. Daksha had been tempted to become Emperor offered by Brahmanayak and stayed back from escaping into Panchavati along with his wife and daughters without informing his father. Shiva recognized from the face reading and the way he confronted them of Daksha as a culprit to abandon Kali and Ganesh and kill Chandandhwaj, first husband of Sati. Later it was known that Brahmanayak was the man behind sending Kali into Naga though Daksha and Veerni wanted to go to Panchavati along with their daughters, Kali and Sati, proposed by Veerni. The main plot in the novel is the result of Ganesh's actions.

Shiva ultimately reaches Panchavati, Naga's capital. The Nagas in the novel are abandoned, dreaded, and noticed as an enemy because of their deformity. Nagas cannot have

natural children and they normally bring the deformed children from Meluha and Swadweep, adopt them as their own. Shiva ultimately found one surprise waiting for him. Kali revealed that the secret is not a thing, but it is a man. The author of the novel concluded that Shiva recognized the teacher or surprise in the classroom as his long-last friend, his brother 'Brihaspati.' This was the main secret of Nagas.

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