

## *Sita An Illustrated Retelling Of The Ramayana*

*Relive the fabulous story of the Ramayana through 108 illustrations to be coloured in. The Sita Colouring Book, based on Devdutt Pattanaik's bestselling retelling of the Ramayana, is a fascinating colouring journey for you to embark on. From the very beginning of the great epic, the birth of Dashratha's four sons, to the passing of Lakshman and Ram at the very end, the remarkably simple yet multilayered story of the Ramayana comes alive through Devdutt's wonderful illustrations. Rediscover some of the most dramatic moments of the great Indian epic, from Ram's breaking of the great bow to the abduction of Sita, from the sacking of Lanka to the building of the bridge across the sea, from the slaying of Ravana to Sita's trial by fire. Imagine the way the Dandaka forest, Kishkindha, Lanka and Ayodhya might have looked, and colour them in all their glory, along with portraits of unforgettable personages like Hanuman, Jambuvan, Jatayu, Surpanakha, Kumbhakarna and Ravana. This is a great colouring adventure that readers of all ages will thoroughly enjoy.*

*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*

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*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 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.*

*'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*

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*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 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. Shiva was an ascetic and a husband, a yogi and a householder. He is named Veenapani, for playing the veena, Natraja for the elegance of his dance, but is a storyteller and a scholar. He was quick to rage in Bhairava, but has the tenderness of Ardhaneshwar, who loves his wife so much he offers her half his body so that they may always be together. He has a third eye—but is it from when he destroyed desire in Kama, or because he wanted to more fully view Parvati's loveliness? Can we ever truly know the depths of what Shiva embodies? Discover the paradoxes of Shiva woven into a short, sweet*

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*read from Devlok.*

*Ramayana Versus Mahabharata*

*Food Of The Gods (Penguin Petit)*

*The Book of Ram*

*Animal Tales from Hindu Mythology*

*Hindu Dharm mein 40 Prabodhan*

*An Illustrated Retelling of the Mahabharata*

*Why do the Vedas give so much importance to stars and planets? What is a rashi, and what is a nakshatra? Are all nakshatras wives of the moon Chandra, and why does Chandra wax and wane? Do you know the love story of the sun and the the flower raat ki rani? What is Shanivar, Saturday, there to teach you? Devdutt brings the sky to life with his thrilling stories of our celestial folklore. From the place of homosexuality in the puranas to the enchanting wedding ritual of searching for the star Arundhati, the night sky comes alive with romance and wonder in this short, sweet read from Devlok.*

*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*

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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...

Artist and veteran Pixar animator Sanjay Patel lends a lush, whimsical illustration style and lighthearted voice to one of

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*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.*

*Sita An Illustrated Retelling of the Ramayana Penguin Global*

*Sita Colouring Book*

*Myth = Mithya*

*Why Is The Ganga Holy?*

*A Worthy Opponent (Penguin Petit)*

*Ravana*

*A Boon and a Curse*

The Ganga is described as a very beautiful woman—voluptuous and fecund—carrying a water pot in her hand and travels on a Makara, a creature with the tail of a fish and the head of an elephant. Does the Ganga flow from Shiva's hair? Does she rise from Vishnu's feet? Is she the wife of Shiva or of Vishnu?

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As the daughter of water, can a river ever have a lord, and be controlled? Devdutt dips into the world of the Goddess Ganga, bringing to life the reasons why we revere this river and depend on her for the cycle of rebirth and freedom. Dive into the nuanced humanity of this delightful goddess in this short, sweet read from Devlok.

'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.

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

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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.

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.

The Illustrated Ramayana

The Destroyer (Penguin Petit)

Culture



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Dharma Artha Kama Moksha

Ramayana

***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 - 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.***

***The Indian tradition of colour has two branches-the vairagya (the ascetic) which keeps things simple, and the grihastha (the householder) which features a riot of colours to rival the rainbow. Colours signify well-being, prosperity and good luck. Perhaps that's why***

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**Indian gods are steeped in a tradition of colour symbolism. Why is Krishna as blue as the sky, and Shiva the grey of ashes? Why do Laxmi and Durga wear bold red saris while Saraswati wears white? Why is black considered inauspicious by some, but the colour of Kali Ma? Walk through the many shades of meaning in this short, sweet read from Devlok.**

**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 an uplifting narrative. Ram's refusal to remarry to produce a royal heir adds to the complexity. The intention seems to be to provoke thought on notions of fidelity, property and self-image. And so the mythologist and illustrator Devdutt Pattanaik retells the Ramayana, drawing attention to the many oral, visual and written retellings composed in different times, in different places, by different poets, each one trying to solve the puzzle in its own unique way. This book 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 a celibate ascetic while she was in the prime of her youth; her interactions with the women of Lanka, recipes she exchanged, emotions they**

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***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.***

***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, vardaana 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.***

***An Illustrated Retelling of the Ramayana***

***Four Brides for Four Brothers***

***50 Insights from Mythology***

***An Illustrated Retelling of Bhagavata***

***Shiva to Shankara***

***(Penguin Petit)***

***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. Jayareveals 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. Why are Hindus so ritualistic? Why do they worship idols? Are Hindus supposed to be***

**vegetarian? Why is a Hindu prayer different from a Muslim or Christian prayer? Did the arrival of Muslim invaders a thousand years ago destroy Hindu culture? Answering key questions on Hindu philosophy and associated Indian history in simple, lucid, engaging ways, and exploring the often curious customs and beliefs that are an intrinsic part of the Hindu faith, this Hindi translation of Devdutt Pattanaik's bestseller is a treasure house of information on the complex tenets of Hinduism. For many a curious reader, *Aastha: Hindu Dharm mein 40 Prabodhan* will prove to be a delightful and eye-opening introduction to the intricacies of one of the world's most practiced religions.**

**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.**

**Artha-shastra is about generating food, i.e. wealth, by creating goods and services; Kama-shastra is about indulging our hungers with this food. Dharma-shastra insists we consider the hunger of others, while Moksha-shastra is about outgrowing our hungers, in order to be detached and generous. Together, these four Hindu shastras provide a framework within which human action, its purposes and consequences, can be defined; together, they validate human existence and give it meaning. In Dharma Artha Kama Moksha, Devdutt Pattanaik uses his unique understanding of mythology to provide an accessible and lucid guide to the Hindu way of thinking, with short essays that are crisp expositions of important concepts.**

**A New Way of Narrating the Ramayana  
Who Created The Universe?**

**Shiva**

**Decoding the Phallic Symbol**

**Gods in the Sky (Penguin Petit)**

**Sita**

**• 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. 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.*

*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 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. Both Hindu epics—Ramayana and Mahabharata—seek to establish a certain order in the world. Their heroes, Rama and Krishna, have different ideals and respond differently to seemingly similar situations. However, is there one correct way? Are Rama's ideals above Krishna's shrewdness? Emotions are the biggest threat to the order imposed by dharma. The conflict between the head and the heart is usually the root of all troubles that plague mankind. This conflict usually leads to either social change or*



***cultural decay. But rules and regulations are meant to adapt and change according to time and geography. If that is the case, are we doing a good job adapting our ideals to our dharma? Read on as Devdutt Pattanaik examines the conflict between cultural demands and natural urges through two of Hinduism's biggest heroes in Rama vs Krishna.***

***Rama vs Krishna***

***An Illustrated Retelling***

***What Came First***

***Aastha***

***The Girl Who Chose***

***Pashu***

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

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

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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. Ram and Sita's wedding is a well-recognized visual in India, especially because of how Ram manages to break Shiva's mighty bow, proving that he was indeed destined to be Sita's husband. But the beauty of the story lies in its details. It is to be found in the tender moments the couple shared when they first laid their eyes on each other at Vishwamitra's ashram. It lies in the realization that the union of Ram and Sita, along with the union of Ram's brothers with Sita's sisters, has been in the making since the time of Prithu, the first king. From Parashurama to Tadaka to Ahalya to Ganga, the story of Four Brides for Four Brothers is a fascinating melange of characters and events. And there is no one better to tell that story than Devdutt Pattanaik with his masterful illustrations. Read on to discover the events that led to the union of two of the most enigmatic characters of Hindu mythology. He Is Eka-Vachani, A King Who Always Keeps His Word; Eka-Bani, An Archer Who Strikes His Target

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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&Rsquo;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.

Eden

Divine Loophole

The Great Indian Epics

An Illustrated Retelling of the Bhagavata

Everything You Need To Know About The Gita

My 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.

- 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

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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. 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 Shrivastava 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! Ganapati's own history, his changing roles, indicate how Indian society has changed over time – in Mumbai, Ganapati 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.

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

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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.

40 Insights for Happiness

Decoding Hindu Mythology

The Pregnant King

The Timeless Epic of Duty, Love, and Redemption

The Colour Divine

An Indian Retelling of Jewish, Christian and Islamic Lore

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.

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 Ram's refusal to remarry

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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.

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

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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.

How did the Gita become the most important granth of the Hindu tradition? How old is it in our culture? What role did the British play in making it famous and why? What is the essence of the Gita? Devdutt encapsulates the meaning of one of Hinduism's greatest texts in an accessible, understandable and profoundly compassionate way. He brings to life the ageless comfort of Krishna's sayings: whatever is meant to happen will happen. Don't expect to be perfect. You cannot blame anyone else for what will happen to you. He showcases the wisdom of the ages with beautiful simplicity and emotional grace. Find out more about this exquisite text in this short, sweet read from Devlok.

Sita's Ramayana

Jaya

Devlok

Shyam

Ganesha

Leader

**After she and Rama are banished from the kingdom,**

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**Sita is imprisoned in a garden and must prove herself to be true to Rama, in a graphic adaptation of the great Indian legend.**

**Ram and Ravana stand at two extreme ends of the human spectrum. From god to demon, dharma to adharma, Ram and Ravana are the biggest lessons of the Ramayana. And as far as villains go, a ten-headed demon-king is an impressive opponent. The beauty of the Ramayana is that it allows you to understand the motivations and actions of both these mighty men.**

**After all, it is because Ravana exists that Ram is born.**

**Without Ravana, there is no Ram. Understanding Ravana is, in fact, the key to understanding the**

**Ramayana. And in Ravana: A Worthy Opponent,**

**Devdutt Pattanaik offers a glimpse into the**

**hedonistic, villanous mind of one of Hindu**

**mythology's greatest demons. Read on to discover**

**Ravana like never before in this straightforward account from the master of mythology himself.**

**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**



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from Krishna's birth to his death, or rather from his descent to the butter-smearing world of happy women to his ascent from the blood-soaked world of angry men.

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, 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. **The Elephant God (Penguin Petit)**

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