

## Philanthropy of Lankapati in Amish Tripathi's *Raavan: Enemy of Aryavarta*

**Dr.S.BELWIN JOEL**

*M.Phil. Scholar, Department of English, Dr.N.G.P. Arts and Science College, Coimbatore*

**Dr.K.KAVIARASU**

*Professor and Head – Dept. of English, Dr.N.G.P. Arts and Science College, Coimbatore*

### ABSTRACT

Raavan is identified as one of the notable characters in the history of Indian mythology. Amish Tripathi's *Raavan: Enemy of Aryavarta* supports that the villains are not created by birth they are triggered by someone at hard situations. The novel describes the struggles of Raavan from being a son of Rishi in a small ashram in India to King of the richest land in earth. Raavan was the great devotee of lord Shiva, so he invented the Ravanahatha. He is a person full of talent and dedication to work, which made him to achieve the greatest height in his life. Vishwamitra needs the powerful villain to rise next incarnation of Vishnu so he moulds the life of Raavan into darkness. Raavan is ready to sacrifice his life for his people, it shows his love on everyone. This article describes Raavan as the people's loveable king of the golden Lanka.

**Keywords:** powerful villain, Raavanahatha, sacrifice, triggered

Indian writing in English has an individual status in the domain of world writing. Indian novels are managing wide scope of topics and are keep on reflecting conventional social qualities and even Indian history through the portrayal of life. In the course of the most recent couple of years, mythological fiction has increased its grounds in India. Amish Tripathi has won the fame and popularity of local themes, words and phrases, which are highly related to Indian mythology which is combined with literary darvanism. Through this paper we came to know about the dharma of Raavan and the injustice made by the society to him.

The life of Raavan begins in the Ashram of Vishrava. People with abilities and deformities are often put into Naga category. Being born a Naga, Raavan faces constant ridicule from his father and gradually he starts to despise his own father. Kaikesi delivers a baby, the Midwife tries to kill the infant. Raavan finds the truth and saves the life of newly born infant. The people in the Rishi Vishrava ashram plans to kill the family of Raavan, he saves his family with the help of his uncle Mareech. At the age of nine, Raavan nearly risked his life to save the life of his brother Kumbakarna. "Nothing will happen to you. Nobody will hurt you. Not as long as I am alive."(9). This shows his brotherly love for Kumbakarna.

Vishwamitra tries to control the life of Raavan indirectly so he accepts the request of Kiakesi to relieve the constant bleeding pain of Raavan and Kumbakarna. Raavan becomes the pirate and he works hard for his family. He makes a great deal with Akampana and he makes a good profit in his business. Raavan likes to buy a caved material for his ships from vishwamitra and he offers a huge price for the cave material. Raavan was unable to buy the caved material so he plans to make a robbery. Raavan didn't like to plunder the wealth of normal people, so he chooses to make the robbery on the treasury of Krakachabahu, the corrupted governor of Chilika. During the robbery, Raavan was very cautious that Kumbakarna should not leave the ship until his return from the palace. Raavan thought Kumbakarna was his strength.

Raavan becomes the chief trader of Lanka and he urges the security force to suppress the pirates, and thus Raavan becomes popular among the traders. Raavan also saves the little girl in the courtesan house. When Raavan came to know that her father had send her to courtesan house, he becomes furious. Then Raavan presents his sword to that little girl to punish her father. The little girl stabs her father brutally until his last breath. Raavan takes the little girl along with him this incident shows the perpetual humanity of Raavan.

Raavan was disturbed with the thoughts of Kanyakumari, a girl he once met in the ashram of Vishrava during his childhood. Raavan likes to marry her but he is unaware of her whereabouts, so he shares his feelings with his brother Kumbakarna. Raavan was shocked to know that the real name of Kanyakumari is Vedavati and she was married to Prithvi. Raavan goes to the Todee village to meet Vedavati and express his love to her. Vedavati refuses the love of Raavan as she explains that she was pregnant with Prithvi's child. On hearing this, Raavan changed his mind and he takes care of Vedavati pregnancy and he also gifts her valuable spices and rare herbal medicine which helps her through pregnancy. It shows the manliness of Raavan.

Raavan came to know that vedavati and her husband were murdered by Sukarman the son of the landlord Shochikesh, he gives Sukarman a painful, brutal death. Raavan considers Vedavati as a living goddess, and the death of Vedavati made him very angry on the people who refused to save the life of Vedavati from the murderers, so Raavan ordered his soldiers to kill all those people without showing any mercy. It shows that the circumstances made him to become a monster. "He is not a bad person. Circumstances have forced him to become what he is"(68). After the funeral ceremony of Vedavati and Prithvi he takes the fingers of Vedavati and he wears it as a pendant around his neck. He considers it a symbol of hope and reminds him of the words of Vedavati.

Raavan understands the economic situation of Lanka and he tries to make it stand on its own, so with the help of Kubaer, Raavan declares war on the kingdom of Sapt Sindhu. Through the brilliant warfare strategies of Raavan the Lankans won the battle against the Sapt Sindhu. This incident made the people of Sapt Sindhu to hate him. Raavan became the ruler of Lanka and he made Lanka a powerful country in the world. The ruling period of Raavan is considered to be the golden period of Lanka.

Kusadhvaj king of Sankashya and the younger brother of Janak invites Raavan for the swamyamvar of Princess Sita. Raavan goes to the swamyamvar to win the hands of Sita but Vishwamitra insults Raavan and he makes Ram to win the contest. Raavan thought that it was an insult to Lanka so he declares war on Mithila. It's clear that Raavan declares war only for the insult he got, but Vishwamitra wages war for his selfishness. Raavan makes the war in the way of dharma but Vishwamitra triggers Ram to fire the Asuraastra against the Lankan soldiers which makes Kumbakarna unconscious. Raavan takes him from Mithila and returns to Lanka. It is evident that Vishwamitra is the main reason for the war but he brilliantly portrays Raavan as a villain to the people of Mithila.

Kumbakarna was suffering from constant bleeding pain so Raavan understands the sufferings of his brother and he knows medicines that can make him alive. He orders his men to get a huge amount of medicine from Vishwanitra, which will relieve the pain of Kumbakarna. Raavan didn't like his step-siblings, Vibhishan and Shurpanakha but he takes care of them because they belong to his family.

When Shurpanakha gets attacked by Ram and Lakshman, Raavan becomes very angry with them. "They attacked our family. And you want us to not to react?"(352). Raavan makes an attack on Ram and Lakshman. During the attack Raavan clearly orders his soldiers that there should not be any causality during the attacks. He insists on not hurting Ram and Lakshman. He wanted Sita to be taken as a political prisoner. It shows that Ram's attack on Shurpanakha has made Raavan attack them. Raavan respects them; therefore he only takes Sita as the political prisoner for the sake of his step-sister. It shows that his love for his family.

Vishwamitra is considered to be the villain in the life of Raavan. The character of Raavan is compared with the unpolished diamond but Vishwamitra makes him go in the wrong direction. Raavan fights the social issues in the society in favour of the people but Vishwamitra plans to make Sita as the next Vishnu, so he

portrays Raavan as villain to everyone. The research article depicts that the potential character of Raavan are misguided by the situations and circumstances.

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