

Scribbles

Bringing colour to your lives

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Issue No. 6

From the Editor's desk...

Dear colleagues,

When we picked the topic for this issue of Scribbles, many images automatically flashed in my mind – of my younger days listening intently to the mythological stories that my grandmoms and aunts would regale; of the stories that we used to pick for display of the Navarathri dolls, an important festival in my grandparents house; of the collection of Amar Chitra Katha that I proudly owned and read and re-read many times and then graduated to reading the Ramayana and the Mahabharata of C Rajagopalachari. Lovely period in my life and I am grateful for the multiple opportunities that I had in learning about certain facets of our ancient culture, through mythology.

It is these exposures that I believe sets the foundation for the ethics and value beliefs of a person and a pride in our culture and wanting to be part of it. Even in today's context I would urge parents to get their children hooked on to these aspects early in their childhood, so that there is plenty of opportunity to read and learn about our culture.

In 2018 when we embarked on the 'Ethically Ours' initiative, why did we use the characters of Krishna, Rama, Duryodhana and Ravana to illustrate the 2 by 2 matrix on legal vs. ethical and letter vs. spirit? All of us who attended this session will still recollect these discussions and would be able to narrate our understanding of the concept. It is because these characters are vibrant, powerful and people whose behaviour and actions we can relate to. Hence, the manipulations of a Krishna, the pure and perfect Rama, the unacceptable behaviour of a Duryodhana, the valour and devotion of a Hanuman, the ten avatars of Vishnu, etc. mean more than just stories – they represent the good vs. evil, the dos vs. don'ts, the right vs. wrong, the behaviours that we need to try to emulate, and so on. No wonder the re-run of Ramayana and Mahabharata last year on Television had a mind-boggling viewership.

So each contributor to this edition of Scribbles has chosen one such person who has made an impact on him/ her and shared their thoughts. The variety is mind-blowing. We have also attempted to spice it up with contests and I hope we will get many entries. Don't miss the list of books that we identified for you to read and the cross-word.

Mythology is woven into our culture, society and our DNA and will stay forever. Characters in these stories will be eternal – and will impact us and constantly remind us of what is acceptable and what is not. These stories help us bond across ages and glue us together to feel proud of our ancient culture.

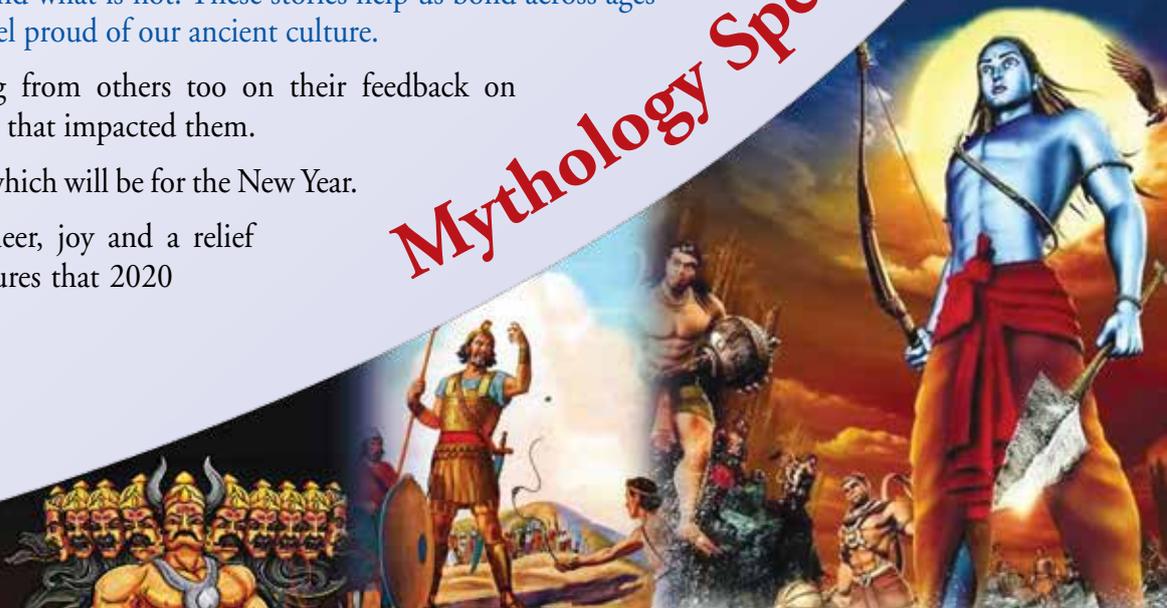
Look forward to hearing from others too on their feedback on mythology and characters that impacted them.

Ciao until the next issue which will be for the New Year.

Hope 2021 brings us cheer, joy and a relief from the stress and pressures that 2020 abounded in.

Ananda Jagan

Mythology Special



Serve the Almighty

When we use the word mythology we should be very careful. One might believe that mythology is just a fairy tale, and some others might believe it to be the truth. I was more of an agnostic a while back. I convinced myself that the existence of God can't be known. Also, I felt that our *Itihasas* (religious stories) were mere folklore rather than actual historical facts. It all changed when I realised the magnitude of information contained in the *Itihasas*. It didn't seem humanly possible to write so much about fictional characters. Nevertheless of my new found conviction, I decided to Google the word 'Myth'. The first meaning is "a story from past times, especially one about gods and men of courage. Myths often explain natural or historical events." I was profoundly relieved that the modern society 'Dictionary' accepts myths to be actual historical events!

Out of the two *Itihasas*, Mahabharata is my favourite because the characters are more relatable to the present state of human society. But, by far, the one who has influenced me the most is Hanuman from Ramayana. It wasn't his powers that attracted me.



Humility – a precious jewel

There's always a mythological story which inspires us. Since I show more affinity towards food, my mom narrated stories based on food. One such story that inspired me is the story of Lord Kubera.

The story begins with Kubera visiting Kailasa to invite Shiva and Parvati for dinner at his newly built palace. Kubera shows his false pride on his wealth in his tone. Shiva understands Kubera's swaggering and asks Ganesha to attend the event to teach him a lesson. Kubera flamboyantly offers all his preparations but, Ganesha finishes everything in a flash and asks for more. Kubera freezes in shock as he sees Ganesha devour all the food and flies to Shiva and Parvati for help. Parvati offers Ganesha a bowl of cereal after which his hunger is satisfied. Shiva tells Kubera that it is to teach him a lesson to never have false pride on wealth. Kubera realises his mistake and understands the significance of modesty.

As mentioned earlier, my love towards food made me love this story at an initial stage. Later on, I realised the moral, "Humility is the precious jewel one should appreciate better than any amount of wealth". Wherever we are and however we are, we must always be humble and modest in our lives.

G Sivaram, *BS&B Engineering, Karapakkam.*





He didn't identify some average run-of-the-mill Joe, to be God. Identifying someone as god is itself a humongous achievement. That can't be done unless you have the 'correct' interpretation of the Vedas and Shastras. Not only did he identify the correct person to be God but also he served him without any aspirations. He served him through thick and thin and called himself a servant, the weakest of all varnas.

He had miraculous powers but he refused to accept himself as God and identified the person who didn't show any miraculous powers to be God. He chose to stress himself, time and again, day and night to serve God and complete his mission to fruition.

Sometimes, I wonder what if all of us had the opportunity to serve God in human form just like how Hanuman, Arjuna and the Gopikas did. Would our personal commitments make us prioritise God over them or would we be like Duryodhana? May be it is time for us to ponder.

V Ganesh, *CSL Plant 3 Production - Caustic, Mettur.*

Rama: greatest warrior

Lord Rama is my favourite mythological character. According to me, Lord Rama is the greatest warrior in Indian mythology. He serves as an inspiration to every human being, who wants to conquer evil thoughts and lust. Lord Rama never betrayed his wife, Sita. He always protects his devotees and helpless individuals like Sugriva. He treats his devotees as his sons. He showed compassion even to cruel Rakshasas. There is no mythological character better than Rama. For such wonderful traits that he possessed Hanuman serves as his greatest devotee.

V Rajaraman, *CCVL Accounts, Cuddalore.*

Mystical Krishna

Every human being has immense potential but not all of us make efforts to channelise it (Even for an intelligent person, less than 5% of it is peaked). If we choose to look at Krishna as one of us, we can consider Him to have gone the full scale and accepted life as a whole without any regrets. He reached the absolute width and depth of spirituality. If we look upon Him as supernatural inherent, there is nothing to discuss as everything boils down to be a predetermined blueprint. But that was not the message that our thought leaders wanted to convey; it was expected that people follow and conduct themselves following Him.

It takes a great amount of effort to understand and accept Krishna in totality. Krishna of the *Geeta* is so different from that of the *Bhagwad*, so people as per their liking divide Krishna into parts and celebrate only some aspects (Ex: Surdas always glorified Krishna as a kid). It takes great spiritual maturity to accept Krishna as a whole.

Being a true Karma yogi, He never shirked responsibility. We can never spot Him in inaction, fear or frustration. His philosophy, the *Geeta* has stood the test of time. Though a king, He wore the hat of a friend, philosopher and guide to all who sought Him. Strategist at his best, business schools are still decoding Him.

There is a Krishna in each one of us trying to steer us. The mind, looked through yoga has 16 dimensions grouped into four categories i.e., **Buddhi** (the logical dimension), **Manas** (sensual memory), **Ahankar** (sense to identify) and **Chitta** (pure intelligence). So any input gets processed and comes out for us to act or react. Unless we nurture the Krishna consciousness within us, we only merely exist.

S Saiteja, *IT - Applications, Corporate, Karapakkam.*



Man with infinite powers: Shiva

My connect with Shiva was ever since I had read the book called Shiva's Trilogy which beautifully portrays Shiva as a man with infinite powers who goes on to save his civilisation, his people and his family from the evil.

This book turns a non believer into a true believer, converts an atheist to theist, helps you find your spiritual interests and so on. Since then I have been more fascinated by Shiva and still exploring more about him. Shiva, one of the three Gods, other two being Brahma and Vishnu, is the destroyer and re-creator. He is the Neel Kanth. He is Mahadev (God of the Gods). Everything about Shiva is so mesmerising, his appearance, his physique, his strength, his hair, his calmness, his anger, his dance and his universal powers, and so many more!

I came across this story of Shiva from one of my best friends.

The Pandavas defeated and killed the Kauravas in the Kurukshetra war. They wished to atone for the sins of committing fratricide (Gotra hatya) and Brahmana Hatya (killing of Brahmins) during the war. Thus, they handed over the reins of their kingdom to their kin and left in search of Lord Shiva and seek his blessings.

First, they went to the holy city of Varanasi (Kashi), believed to be Shiva's favourite city and famous for its Shiva temple. But Shiva wanted to avoid them as he was deeply incensed by the death and dishonesty at the Kurukshetra war and was insensitive to Pandavas' prayers. Therefore, he assumed the form of a bull (Nandi) and hid in the Garhwal region.

Not finding Shiva in Varanasi, the Pandavas went to Garhwal Himalayas. Bhima, the second of the 5 Pandava brothers, then standing astride two mountains started to look for Shiva. He saw a bull grazing near Guptkashi ("hidden Kashi"- the name derived from the hiding act of Shiva). Bhima immediately recognised the bull to be Shiva. Bhima caught hold of the bull by its tail and hind legs.

But the bull-formed Shiva disappeared into the ground to later reappear in parts, with the



hump raising in Kedarnath, the arms appearing in Tungnath, the nabhi (navel) and stomach surfacing in Madhyamaheshwar, the face showing up at Rudranath and the hair and the head appearing in Kalpeshwar. The Pandavas pleased with this reappearance in five different forms, built temples at the five places for worshipping Shiva. The Pandavas were thus freed from their sins. It is also believed that the fore portions of Shiva appeared at Pashupatinath, Kathmandu, Nepal.

After building the Panch Kedar temples, the Pandavas meditated at Kedarnath for salvation, performed Yajna and then through the heavenly path called the Mahapanth attained heaven or salvation.

As mentioned, the five temples built by the Pandavas form the "Panch Kedar", beautifully built. Kedarnath is also part of 12 Jyothirlingas and Char Dham (Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedar and Badrinath). To visit all these temples of Shiva would be a life time opportunity along with the darshan of Mount Kailash and the Mansarovar lake.

Lakhan Periwal Sunderlal, *Mettur Human Resources, Chemplast Sanmar Limited.*

Mahabharata and Management Lessons

A day after the victory of the Pandavas in the Kurukshetra war, Yudhishthira, his brothers along with Lord Krishna went to visit Bheeshma, who was lying on a bed of arrows in the battlefield. Yudhishthira requested



Bheeshma to share his thoughts on rules of life, and the lessons he learnt from his lifetime etc.

While explaining the priorities of life and their ranks, Bheeshma mentioned the below verse:

‘SarvAga mAnA-mAchAra prathamam parikalpathey
AchAra prathamo dharmo dharmasya prabhur
achyuthaH’

Meaning: The rules of life (AchAra) come first, Dharma comes second and Lord Almighty comes third. Any spiritual discussion must help a person in his daily life and work atmosphere. Many ancient scriptures help in this. The given verse is one such.

Corporate takeaway: In corporate atmosphere, AchAra must be interpreted as the rules of that organisation, Dharma must be interpreted as one’s effort and the Lord Almighty gets interpreted as the rest (viz., job satisfaction, dissatisfaction, job rotation, remuneration, appreciation etc.)

To illustrate: A banker asks for executing a particular document from the company as per the bank’s rule. Though the requirement is genuine, if the execution is detrimental to the organisation in genuine terms, if the management anticipates further complications after executing that particular document and not executing it is not going to result in any statutory violation, then the employee must manage the situation without executing that document. Management decision becomes the AchAra here. The effort of the employee in succeeding in this task is Dharma. Even if he fails in the task, the effort must be there, rest of the factors like, whether he likes this decision of management, whether he was satisfied in this work, all these rank three.

Once you are in the seat, you must act. If you have been given the responsibility, the arrow must be shot without any hesitation. We cannot be seated in the hot seat and also continue to hesitate in decision making moments. That will be detrimental to the success of the organisation which is the ultimate purpose of our being there.

S Manjukesan, *Central Accounting, Corporate, Head Office.*

Parashurama



Parashurama is believed to be one of the avatars of Lord Vishnu. He was supremely educated both theoretically and practically in warfare. Parashurama had a revolutionary nature, he received heavenly weapons and went on to annihilate injustice in the same way in which it was committed. True to his word, absolutely honest and clean soul, generous to the core, he had nothing left in his possession as he gave all his weapons and powers to everyone else.

He was highly respectful and sympathetic towards women and the downtrodden people in the society. He maintained eternal celibacy. He gave up petty impulses like greed, lust and pride. Selfless and an eternal symbol of strength and independence, he gave up hedonism and his own good for the sake of the greater good. His only drawback was his anger, although he always preached against war. I always draw hope and strength from his character.

Sumit Parmar, *SESL Site Management J3 SEZ Mech Seals, Jamnagar.*



Anjaneya - Vaayu Putra

We can relate many of the traits Hanuman possesses with the personal development skills that one needs in professional and personal life.

Good communication skills: Hanuman had gone to Lanka in search of Sita, where Sita initially couldn't recognise him. Only because Hanuman had that art of communicating properly, Sita could believe that he was a messenger of Rama. Our communication needs to be short and clear. When Hanuman met Rama after he found Sita, his communication and body language made Rama clear that he had met Sita and that she was safe in Lanka.

Leaving comfort zone for career development: Though Hanuman was the son of a King, he worked along with Sugreev and took responsibility in building the bridge up to Lanka and developed great leadership skills to organise the monkey army in defeating Ravana. This pleased Rama and made Hanuman as his confidant. Likewise, we need to get out of our comfort zones and perform at our best by improving our technical and personal skills.

Acquiring multi-dimensional qualities: He was selfless and served Lord Rama to bring back Sita from Lanka. He had great devotion towards Rama, and was like a son to Sita. He was the destroyer of demons and enemies. He acquired the skills of being a spy when he met Ravana in his court. Similarly, we need to develop ourselves in acquiring multi-dimensional knowledge and act according to the situation.

Hard work pays off: Hanuman had gone in search of Sita along with Angad, Jambavan and others. They searched for her in every corner of Lanka, but in vain. Finally, hard work paid off when they were informed by the wingless vulture Sampati that Sita was taken by the king of Lanka. Likewise, we need to keep in mind that the hard work that we put in our career will surely benefit the organisation which will be recognised as well.

Take up challenges: Hanuman took up the challenge of crossing the ocean by taking one big leap. He was not aware of his strength until Jambavan reminded him that he was the only one who could do it. So, he took up the challenge. Likewise, we need to be ready to take up challenges.

S Ganesh, CSL Plant 2 Production Polymer, Mettur.



*“Devotion is that which generates knowledge
Knowledge is that which fashions freedom”.*

- **Tulsi Das**

Hanuman is the Vanara devout of Lord Rama. He is “Chiranjeevi” meaning immortal and is mentioned in both Ramayana and Mahabharata.

This unforgettable hero is a perfect example of strength, spirit, valour and virtues. He poses some ardent qualities as given below:

- **Brahmachari:** one who controls his senses and is a celibate.
- **Vanchari - “Dweller of Forest”:** This symbolically tells each and every soul is a part of the nature and should embrace it.
- **Dharmachari:** Follower of righteous path. “Dharma” should be taken as truth, love and compassion.
- **Strength:** He is a symbol of physical, mental, emotional, spiritual consciousness.
- **Egoless:** By opening his chest to show that Lord Ram and Sita are his everything, he taught us humility and devotion.

Tulsi Das rightly said, “Greater than Ram is the Ram’s servant”. With the growing unfortunate situation in today’s material world, we all would need to wake up the “Hanuman” within us to fight back the evil and bad vibes.

M Gopinath, *Central Accounting, Corporate, Head Office.*

Bajrangbali

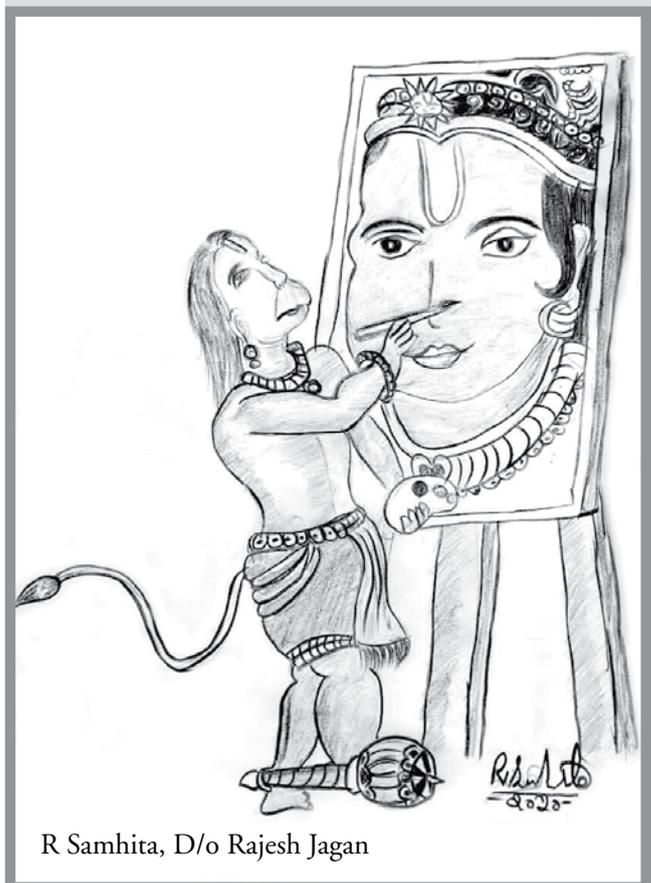
Is it true or a myth? This is how many discussions go on when we cite something from our epics. Leaving this question to rest, we should understand what each epic reveals. It actually throws more insights about how life is to be lived, what is right and what is wrong. Each epic has many characters and each character has a different trait and behaviour.

One of the most admirable characters is Hanuman, who is loved by kids too. Many of his traits have relevance to daily life, more so in work life too.

- Clear communication
- Dedication to the assigned task
- Bravery
- Devotion to Lord Rama

A pencil sketch of Hanuman drawing Lord Ram by my daughter R Samhita.

Rajesh Jagan, *Chemicals Global Sourcing & Strategy, Head Office.*



R Samhita, D/o Rajesh Jagan

Excerpts from the articles received on Hanuman.

Supremely dutiful

Hanuman is one of the greatest examples of a team-player. A team player is one who is willing to take on any responsibility and responds with his efforts and and wisdom.

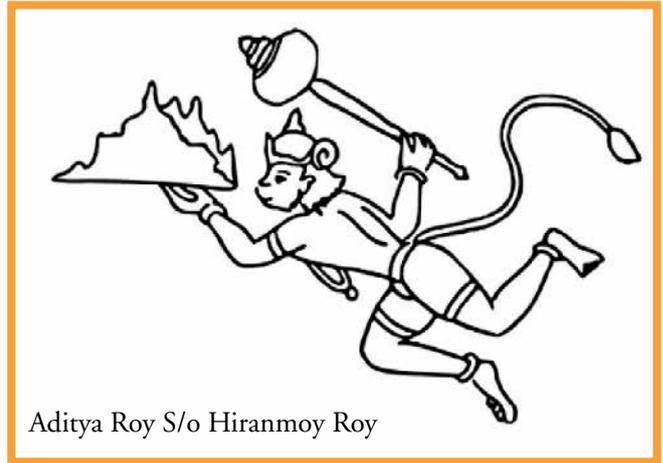
When Sugriva organises a search party for locating Sita, he appoints Angad as the leader. Hanuman, even though far more powerful than Angad, humbly accepts Angad's leadership and stands by him completely. Later of course, Angad realises the foolishness of Sugriva's act when Hanuman recalls all his superpowers and accepts Hanuman's supremacy.

Even though Hanuman knew he was a superior player compared to Angad, he did his duty. What we learn from this scenario is we should give our best at all times irrespective of circumstances. Never listen to people who tell that the work you do is demeaning or that it would undermine your prestige.

Hanuman is well known for his bravery and strength. He could have killed Ravana the day he discovered Lanka but he waited for Lord Rama's directions.

Hanuman had the ability to kill Ravana, but the rule of the battlefield is to wait for an order of the leader. The good qualities of Hanuman which include self-control and abiding by the rules need to be adopted to excel in our own lives too.

T Sabarinath, *CSL Plant 3 Electrical Maintenance, Mettur.*



Aditya Roy S/o Hiranmoy Roy

While still a baby, Hanuman, the child of a nymph by the wind god, tried to fly up and grab the Sun, which he mistook for a fruit. Indra, the king of the gods, struck Hanuman with a thunderbolt on the jaw, thus inspiring the name. Hanuman is worshipped as a subsidiary figure in temples dedicated to Rama or directly in shrines dedicated to Hanuman himself.

Hanuman is also a popular figure among the Buddhists in Central, Southeast, and East Asia. Outside India, however, rather different tales are told of him. Although considered a brahmachari in our tradition, he is said to have wives and children in other traditions. He has been identified as the inspiration for the monkey hero of the great Chinese poem Xiyouji (Journey to the West). The Hanuman Langur (*Semnopithecus entellus*), one of the most common Indian monkeys, is named after the Ramayana character.

Hiranmoy Roy, *BS&B Field Sales & Service Kolkata.*

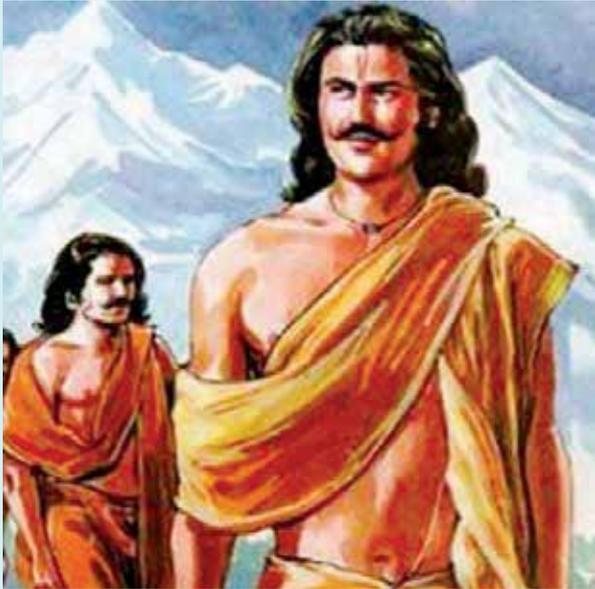
Rama Bakth Hanuman

Hanuman, the monkey warrior is known for his bravery and obedience. His profound devotion leads him to reach Lanka and find Sita in spite of several challenges. This proves us that, if we aim and pursue something with courage and confidence we can reach heights. He lifted the Dronagiri Mountain, in order to help Lakshmana and he could even burn Ravana's palace with his tail. Meaning if we plan, prioritise and work hard we can achieve our goals even in complex circumstances.

Knowing only our strengths is not sufficient we should also know our hidden talents and strive to take efforts to deliver results on right time. We have to be obedient and courageous like Hanuman, which would reward us. We should not hesitate to take initiatives and fear challenges. Be as versatile as possible and keep surprising the world with the difference that we can make. Keep our ears and minds open for good advice and work with conviction.

Kiran K Sahu, *CCVL Accounts, Cuddalore.*

Dharma Raja: Yudhisthira



Yudhisthira is an ancient mythical character featured in the Mahabharata. This is one character that creates curiosity. He is the son of Yama who is the lord of death and justice.

The blood and bones of Indian legal system is dharma, it coexists with the English and Muslim laws. Yama is otherwise called dharmaraj as he followed principles of dharma to execute justice. Yama is a rig vedic deity, during the rig vedic period humans were honest and there were no kings/governments/ courts for punishment. People filled with lust and desire committed crimes and their acts were punished by Yama himself. In modern India there are very few places of worship for this abominable God.

Being the son of the god of justice himself, he never uttered a single lie his entire life. He always abided by the established code of law. He was the paragon of righteousness. He never failed to follow dharma, even while in misery. Being the eldest son of Kunti and the rightful heir to the throne, he never misused his power. He is the only one who passed through to heaven without death.

The life of Yudhisthira teaches us the moral principle of adhering to dharmic path. It is impossible to live a life like he did but it is possible to at least abide by the law and stay away from acts/omission that would lead to the breach of law. It is high time we realised the potential of our legal system.

M Ram Surath Kumar, *XSL Field Sales & Service Chennai.*

Ace archer: Arjuna

Arjuna was one of the five Pandava brothers from the epic Mahabharata. He was born to Kunti and king Pandu. At a very young age he was acclaimed for his sincerity and skill in archery, under the guidance of Dronacharya and Bheeshma.

He was known for his steadfastness and single mindedness in pursuing his goals. He was instrumental in winning Draupadi in a contest for himself and his brothers as their joint wife. He also married Subhadra the sister of Krishna and Balarama and maintained their friendship forever. Lord Krishna became his mentor and guide for the rest of his life.

He was known by different names such as Phalguna, Keerti, Paartha, Savyasachi, Dhananjaya and so on. Arjuna and Subhadra gave birth to a son called Abhimanyu who later became a great warrior. Arjuna's powerful bow Gandiva helped him enormously in slaying his enemies. Arjuna also got the divine Pasupatastra from Lord Shiva during exile. Apart from archery, he also excelled in dancing, singing and acting which enormously helped the Pandavas when they had to stay in the court of Virata in disguise during Ajnatavasa.

He helped king Virata by fighting a battle with the Kauravas who invaded his kingdom. He remained loyal to his elder brother Yudhisthira who ascended the throne of Hastinapur by virtue of being the eldest in the family.

He also assisted his brother greatly in expanding their empire by conquering several kingdoms. After the passing away of Lord Krishna, he forgot most of his skills as an archer and spent the rest of his life in humility and devotion. Arjuna serves as an example of a great human being, a loyal brother, a devoted husband and a sincere devotee of the Lord himself.

Arjuna was such a great warrior that Krishna himself was his charioteer during the Kurukshetra war.

C Sankaranarayanan,
SMML Investment Planning, Viralmalai.



Ganga Putra: Bhishma

In the Great epic Mahabharata, Bhishma also known as Bhishma Pitamaha was well known for his pledge of celibacy. Bhishma was blessed with a boon from his father that he could choose the time of his death or he may remain immortal till he desires. During his final moments in battle of Kurukshetra he asks Lord Sri Krishna.

“Lord Sri Krishna all my life I have never broken my promise to protect the subjects of Kuru Dynasty from pain, sacrificed my royalty, took celibacy and done good to all, but where have I gone wrong?.”

Then Lord Krishna explains, “It is true that you have never done anything wrong yourself, but when Panchali was being disrespected and humiliated by the Kuru dynasty you did nothing to stop it, all your might and power didn't do anything. That single event of disrespect has led to this war where millions of Kuru dynasty have lost their lives which tainted your godly reputation”.

It is not enough to be a “not bad person”(unlawful person) you have to be a anti bad/unlawful person and condemn those who are bad/unlawful.

Jagga Abishek, *FSL Field Sales & Service, Vizag.*



Blemishless Vidura



Mahatma Vidura is the most important character in Mahabharata. This epic verse is hailed as the “Panchama Veda” which means 5th Veda. The connectivity of Mahabharata to our modern society is very great and so is the character of Mahatma Vidura.

Though there are many significant characters in Mahabharata namely Bheeshma, Dronacharya, Kripacharya, Yudhisthira, Karna and many more, the title “Mahatma” has been conferred to Vidura only by none other than Lord Krishna. This is because though all of these characters are great, honest and good, each one of them did something or other against integrity at some point of time, but Vidura never did anything of that sort against integrity in his lifetime. Vidura was the personification of righteousness and the embodiment of wisdom.

Vidura was the minister of a vast empire which we all know. He dared to be honest always and never hesitated to advise the right things to the King, which was in the best interest of the kingdom even if the King did not like those. He was a true blemishless and unselfish minister very rare to find in modern day's world.

In Sanmar's context, we call this as “Intellectual Honesty”. The name Vidura is synonymous with Intellectual Honesty. This is because of the fact that not even once in his whole life, he deviated from the principles of Integrity.

Vidura's wisdom, devotion, humility and love for the nation are good examples for all of us in every walk of life. There cannot be any other example of righteousness other than Vidura - according to me.

Persevere to live the way – Mahatma Vidura lived,

Honesty, Humility, Unrelenting righteousness vivid

Unselfish always to put nation's (Organisation) interest first in every deed

This shall destine the nation (Organisation) to succeed

K S Suesh, B/o K S Ravindran, *Products Strategic Purchase, Karapakkam.*

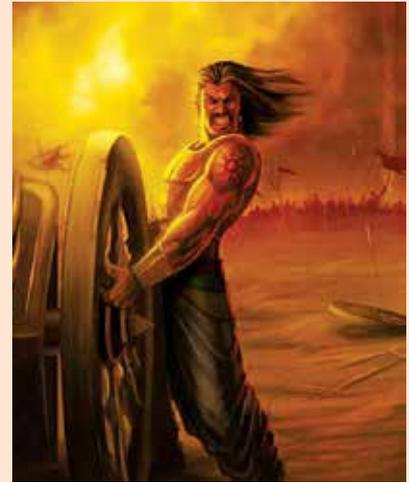
Karna – the righteous

When I was asked to write about a mythological character, my subconscious mind provoked me to write about Karna of Mahabharata. He was a man with a phenomenal sense of integrity and generosity with philanthropic attitude. He had all the elements of a hero but, his true colours were not exhibited, because of his mother, his brothers, his teacher and even God. Nevertheless, with a strong and lonely belief in his talent, he never let him down.

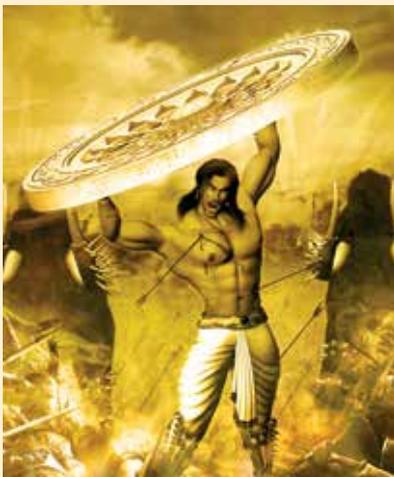
He was ever grateful to Duryodhana, and so he always supported the “Kauravas” but he had never ever involved himself in any of their unethical activities. He was always truthful to himself and his work in an ethical way with a strong perseverance and belief in his talent.

At the Kurukshetra war, he could have defeated Arjuna, if he had given importance to his motive rather than his ethics, but he didn't and this is the point, where I started admiring him. His dedication towards the righteous path to achieve his goal is phenomenal. Likewise, wherever we are, we should always be grateful to the person behind our wellness and it's not about the place, it's about ourselves in achieving our goal in an ethical manner with faith. “We are the charioteers of our own lives and we need to decide how and where to go.”

S Hari Prasath, *FSL Purchase & Sub Contract, Karapakkam.*



Abhimanyu – the brave



The 13th day of the Kurukshetra war has Abhimanyu of the Pandavas, fighting with extreme valour against insurmountable odds all by himself. He was only sixteen when he partook in this war and the warriors he fought were far more experienced and seasoned than him.

His most important contribution was the fact that he stood between victory and defeat of Pandavas in the war on the 13th day. On this day, the Kaurava army created the “Chakravyuha” which only Arjuna and Krishna (on the Pandavas side) knew how to defeat.

Unfortunately, they were dragged into a war at the other end of the battle-field and too far from the formation to know about it. Abhimanyu only knew how to enter the “Chakravyuha” but not the way of extricating himself out. However, he broke through the formation and attacked whoever came his way and vanquished many. He was deemed invincible while fighting inside the formation and without him, Yudhishthira (the leader of Pandavas) would have been captured and lost the war.

The moment he set out to exit the Chakravyuha, his death was certain. Abhimanyu was aware of this while entering itself, but his courage and commitment was so strong, that he never cared. He was simultaneously attacked by many warriors. He lost his bow but took up a sword and shield and continued fighting. When they too were destroyed, he picked up a chariot wheel from the ground and attacked. Eventually he was hit on his head and killed. His death was actually a transgression of Mahabharata's war ethics which only permitted duels between the warriors and not attacks by multiple individuals on a single person.

Abhimanyu fought bravely against the greatest of the Kaurava warriors and displayed remarkable heroism. By his virtue and capability, he was deemed to be the most eligible and qualified heir to the throne of Hastinapura. But he sacrificed himself to guard ‘Dharma’.

S Karthic, *XSL Field Sales & Service, Chennai.*

**Contest
1**

DRAWING/ PAINTING CONTEST



Draw/ sketch/ paint any of your favourite mythological character. Email us a picture of your creation along with a description of the character or scene drawn. Prizes await the best entries. Contest is open for children of employees in the ages 10-18. Entries to be sent to scribbles@sanmargroup.com

Greek Mythology Word Scramble

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ALLPOO	<input type="text"/>
SERA	<input type="text"/>
ARIMSET	<input type="text"/>
AANTHE	<input type="text"/>
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DNOISSYU	<input type="text"/>
SERO	<input type="text"/>
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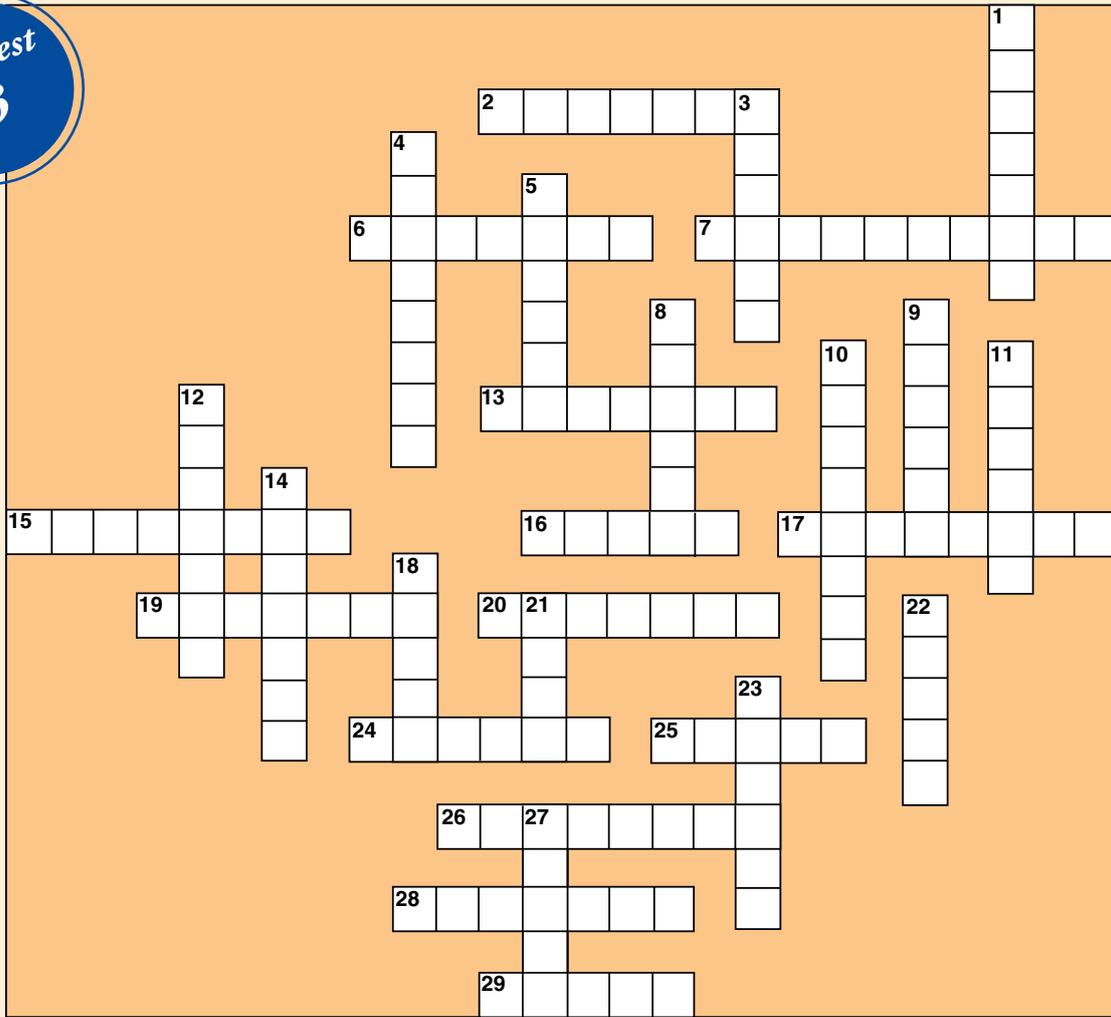
Z E U S	ZSUE
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H A D E S	AHESD
E R O S	SERO
D I O N Y S U S	DNOISSYU
D E M E T E R	MERDTEE
A T H E N A	AANTHE
A R T E M I S	ARIMSET
A R E S	SERA
A P O L L O	ALLPOO
A P H R O D I T E	IAOHERDTP

Contest
2



Let your imagination run wild! Colour this picture and email a photo of it. Prizes await the best entries. Contest is open for children of employees in the ages 5-10. Entries to be sent to scribbles@sanmargroup.com

Crossword



Across

- 2. A horse with wings.
- 6. A horse with a special horn and the beard of a goat
- 7. A creature with the body of a horse and the head of a bird
- 13. A creature with the upper body of a human and the tail of a fish
- 15. Odin's eight-legged horse
- 16. An enormous humanoid creature
- 17. A human that turns into a wolf during the full moon
- 19. A creature body of a lion and head of a bird
- 20. A large humanoid creature with only one eye
- 24. A cute nickname for a creature who lives in a Scottish lake
- 25. A humanoid with face and body of a woman and the wings and claws of a bird
- 26. A giant snake that can kill you with its eyes
- 28. A creature that is half horse, half human
- 29. A humanoid creature that often lives underground, and turns into stone in sunlight

Down

- 1. A firebird. When it dies it burns up, and is then reborn from the ashes
- 3. A lion with the face of a woman. Ask riddles
- 4. A creature with the upper body of a human and the head, tail, and legs of a bull
- 5. A humanoid undead creature that eats brains
- 8. A large, lizard-like creature with wings. Often breathes fire and collects gold
- 9. A shape shifter that can take on the forms of both seal and human
- 10. A dog with three heads that guards the underworld
- 11. A woman whose hair is made of snakes
- 12. A humanoid creature that drinks blood
- 14. An ape-like creature found in America
- 18. Small humanoid with beards and pointed hats. Often found as statues in gardens.
- 21. An Ape-like creature found in the Himalayan Mountains
- 22. A lizard-like creature with nine heads which will grow two more heads if one is cut off
- 23. A huge octopus that lives off the coast of Norway and eats ships
- 27. A humanoid with the horns and legs of a goat

Crossword

Get cracking on this fun crossword of mythical creatures and send us a photo of your completed crossword. The first 3 correct entries will receive prizes.



Contest is open for all employees. Entries to be sent to scribbles@sanmargroup.com

Quiz

Send us the answers to this quiz on Indian mythology. The first three correct entries will receive prizes.

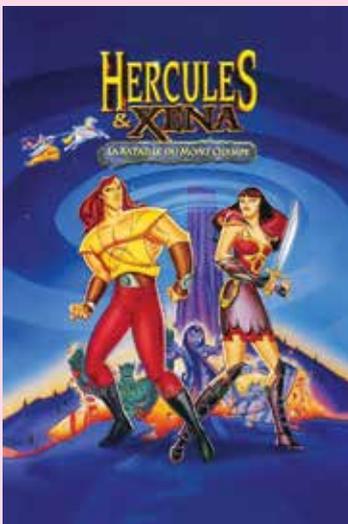
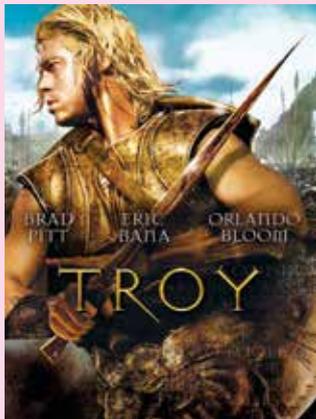
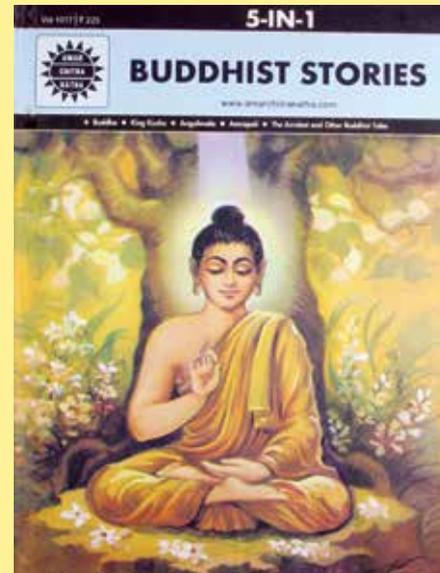
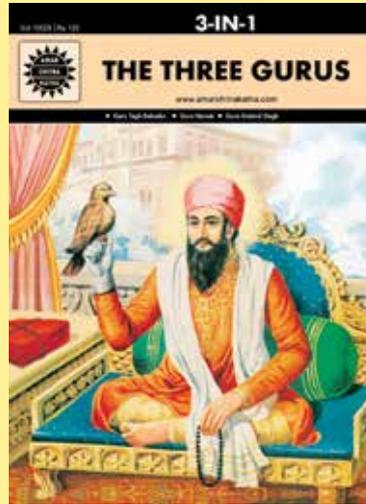
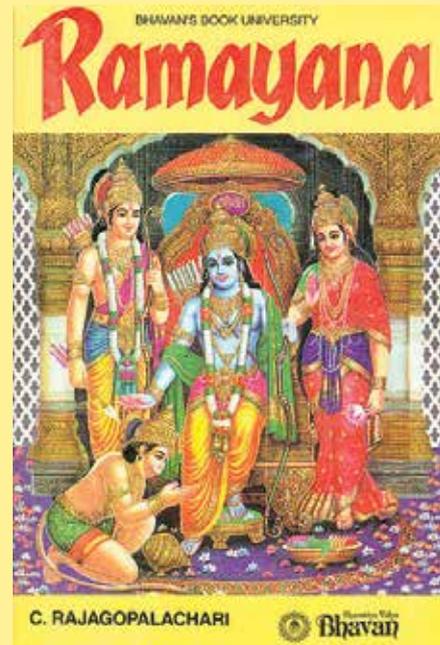


Indian Mythology Quiz

1. What was the condition on which Ganesha agreed to write the Mahabharata?
2. For how many days was the Battle of Kurukshetra fought?
3. Where did the battle between Rama and Ravana take place?
4. What is the meaning of the word 'Shiva'?
5. Why did Hanuman leap towards the Sun soon after birth?
6. Who made Rama and Lakshmana expert archers?
7. What was the name of the kingdom ruled by Drupada?
8. Sage Pulastya's grandson became a mighty king. Who was he?
9. Who was the father of Bhishma?
10. Where did Drona go when he was insulted by Drupada?
11. What is the name of Indra's elephant?
12. What was the name of Shakuntala's husband?
13. Who offered poisoned sweets to Bhima when he was young?
14. Who were Abhimanyu's parents?
15. Who defeats the Gandharva King Chitravana and frees the Kauravas?
16. With what weapon did Krishna kill Shishupala?
17. Who presented the bow, Gandiva to Arjuna?
18. What was the name assumed by Arjuna in Virata's palace?
19. What was the name of Dronacharya's father?
20. What was the name of king Virata's son?

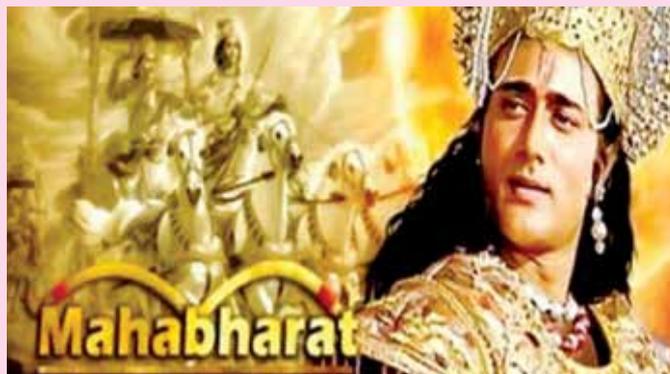
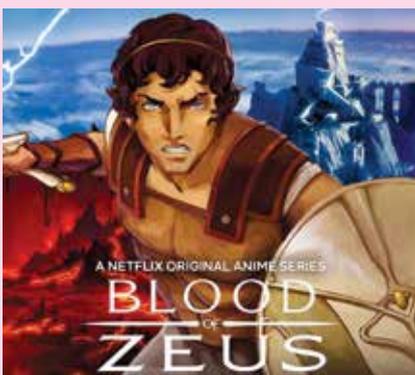
Books on mythology

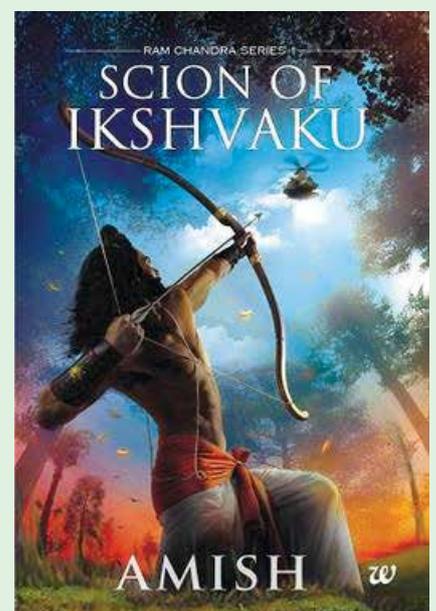
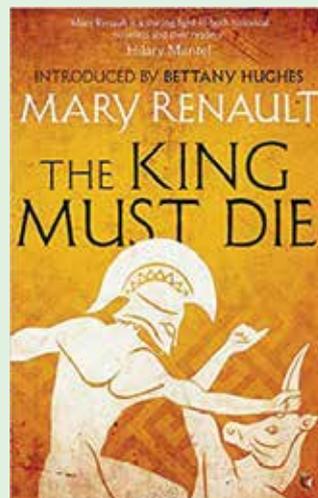
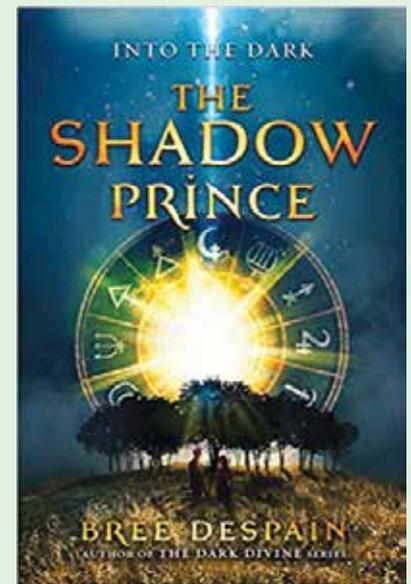
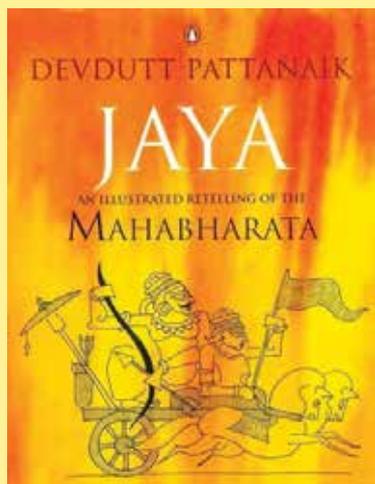
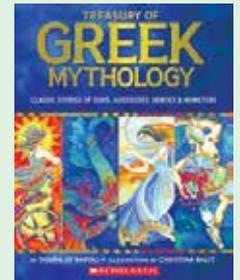
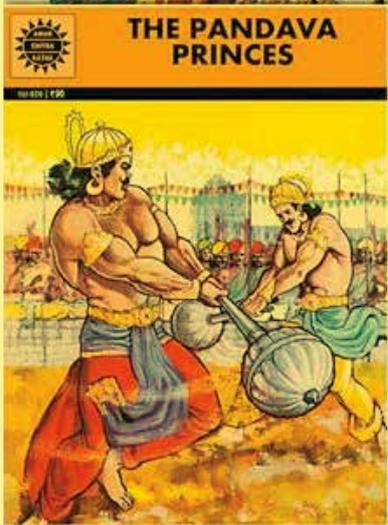
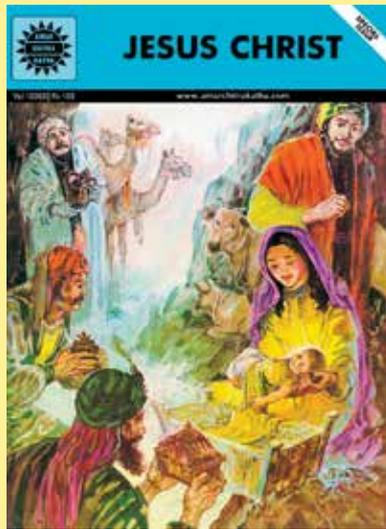
These books convey the stories and message in mythology in simple language and serve as sources of knowledge for adults and kids alike.



Movies and TV series based on mythology

These programmes succeeded in making the mythological characters household names. They are available on YouTube and other OTT platforms, preserved for posterity.





Fiction based on mythology

These books are meant for the readers of these times and give a sneak peak into the world of mythology. Though the stories are fictional, they help in generating interest among young readers.

Shiva Baktha - Ravana

My favourite mythological character is Ravana. Ravana was a great learned man with high moral values. Yet, we caricature him and see him in poor light due to a single flaw in his character. Though he was a good king, husband and a devotee of Lord Shiva, he was ruined because of his ego and pride.

His thirst for recognition, strength and power took him to unrighteous path; he abducted Sita, forcefully kept her in Lanka and challenged Rama for a battle to set her free. Due to his evil deeds, today, he is caricatured in poor light.

Ravana performed an intense penance to appease Shiva, lasting several years. Shiva, pleased with his austerity, offered him a boon. Ravana was a

scholar and connoisseur of arts. Ravana possessed a thorough knowledge of Ayurveda and political science. His ten heads represented his knowledge of the six Shastras and the four Vedas. Ravana was also an extraordinary scholar, an excellent Veena player; he also composed the Ravan Stuti.

Ravana's life tells us that knowledge can win you praise, even from your staunchest enemies. Rama once addressed Ravana as a "Maha Brahman".

Ravana's story is a lesson to illustrate that although one is well endowed with good qualities, a single frailty in character is enough to demean anyone.

K G Ganeshan, *SSC Quality Control, Berigai.*

Anti-hero inspires

It is not necessary that you should always take inspiration only from the heroes. Right from ancient stories to modern days web series, many of us do take inspirations from "anti-heroes" as well. Here is the laconic inspiration story of mine on my "anti-hero".

Once lived a great warrior, a brave soldier, a fantastic musician and a scholar of repute. He was much better in strategy of war than Bahubali and more heroic warrior than Jon Snow. While many of us are struggling to deal with thoughts going on our single head, this versatile man was said to have 10 heads and could handle multi-tasking at a time. Yes, I'm talking about the 'Great Ravana' who is my inspiration in some distinct ways.

Every man is a mixture of both good and bad. We must learn to see the good in all. Ravana kidnapped Sita to avenge Rama and Lakshmana, for having cut off the nose of his sister Surpanakha. But he never touched Sita without her consent. Men of today commit crime against women even after knowing that they will be hanged to death. Ravana was way better!

A S Kathiravan, *SMML Sand Technology Metallurgy, Viralimalai.*



The extraordinary veena player: Ravanaasura

Here are some interesting facts about Ravan:

- Ravan was Brahma's great-grandson. Ravan's father was the famous rishi, Visravas.
- Ravan performed a yagna for Ram, once Ram's army had created the bridge to Lanka, they needed to get Shiva's blessing for which they set up a yagna. But the biggest bhakt of Shiva in the entire region was Ravan, and since he was half-brahman, he was also the best qualified to perform the yagna. Displaying honour, Ravan actually showed up, performed the yagna and gave Ram his blessing.
- Ravan imparted valuable knowledge to Lakshman.
- Ravan was so powerful that he could even interfere with planetary alignments.
- During the birth of his son Meghnad, Ravan

'instructed' the planets to stay in the 11th house of the child, which would grant him immortality. Ravan was well-aware of his impending doom. Most powerful Asuras (demons) knew that they were sent to earth to perform a particular role. Ravan knew that it was his fate to die in the hands of an avatar of Vishnu, something that would help him attain moksha and give up his demon form.

- Ravan had 10 heads, Some versions of the Ramayan say that Ravan did not in fact have ten heads, but it appeared so because his mother gave him a necklace of nine pearls that caused an optical illusion for any observer.
- He got the name Ravan later in life and that too from Shiva. Ravan wanted Shiva to relocate from Kailash to Lanka, and to make

this possible, he tried to lift the mountain. It is believed that Ravan plucked out nerves from his own hand to provide accompanying music. Shiva, thus impressed, named him Ravan.

• Ravan and his brother Kumbhkaran were actually avatars of Vishnu's gatekeepers.

No wonder there are many people in the world, who still worship him. We appreciate Ravan for his valour and devotion to Lord Shiva.

R Tanushree

d/o S Rajesh, BSE&B Quality Control, Karapakkam.



Righteousness will always be crowned

It is a tale of a man who is a demon by birth, from Ramayana. He is an epitome of selflessness, devotion, adherence to dharma and compassion. The great epic Mahabharata calls such nature as Sattvic.

Vibhishana, also called Bibhishan, was the younger brother of Ravana, yet he was specific to keep up the name and reputation of his distinguished lineage. His boon was to have a resolute mind fixed on Lord Vishnu's feet truly as a servant. He moved away from his own family, gave up his wealth and royal status to be on the side of **righteousness**.

Adherence to Dharma

Adhering to personal principles was a matter of choice for him as against Kumbhakarna who was loyal to his brother even after knowing Ravana's immoral act. Vibhishana was always for peace and advised Ravana against abducting Sita. When the latter refused, the former was with **Dharma** (Rama's

army) and aided them throughout the battle. He divulged the secrets of the Lankan army, did tricks to nullify Indrajit's (Ravana's son) black magic.

He did not stop with that, he also took a step forward and revealed the secret of how to kill his own brother to Rama, which brought an end to immorality and reestablished dharma in the universe. No wonder his courage and selflessness made him lord Ram's Mace.

A man of Compassion

Lakshmana said to Vibhishana, "So many have died in the battle. But why do you weep for Indrajit in particular? Vibhishana replied "Lord! He was like my only son. It is with the filial attachment I weep."

Later when Rama defeated Ravana, he said to Lakshmana, "My dear brother, please crown Vibhishana the king of Lanka, for he is fond of me, and does good things to me." After ascending the throne

Jatayu - the king of vultures

Webster dictionary defines effort as a "conscious exertion of power: hard work". From classroom to the boardroom, effort and tenacity are keys to success. It is continuous effort, not strength or intelligence that is the key to unlocking our potential. The epics are replete with examples of small but significant efforts.

In the Ramayana, Jatayu was believed to be the son of Aruna (Sun God) and a nephew of Garuda. A demi-god in the form of a vulture, Jatayu was an old friend of king Dasharatha, father of Rama. Jatayu was the first person who tried to rescue Sita from the clutches of Ravana while abducting her to Lanka.



Jatayu was nearing the end of his life. He was the old retired king of vultures and had no strength left. But that did not deter him from taking on the mighty Ravana.

When he saw Ravana abducting Sita, he did not care about his senses, his body, his age. He just cared about his seva – service. He overcame his pain, suffering, old age and infirmities to challenge Ravana to release Sita. He fought hard against the demon king and would have won but for his age. Unfortunately, his wings were cut off and he fell to the ground dying.

When Rama and Lakshmana saw this bird, they recognised him as Jatayu. Jatayu told Rama that he had tried very hard to save Sita but he could not. He felt very bad that he had failed in his effort.

Rama told him that he had actually won. Jatayu was victorious not because of the result of the initiative, but because of the effort he had taken to save Sita from the clutches of Ravana. Jatayu with all his inabilities, took that effort to render his service to Rama. The outcome of the effort is immaterial; it is the effort that counts. If you have a positive attitude and constantly strive to give your best you will overcome your problems and get ready for greater challenges.

Do not give up. Try and try again until you succeed.

Lt. Col Sreedhar Vasudevan, *Mettur Site Services, Chemplast Sanmar Limited.*



of Lanka, he worked towards transforming his subjects and led them on the path of Dharma or righteousness. Even in today's scenario, Ramrajya is truly possible if we have people with Vibhishana's character!

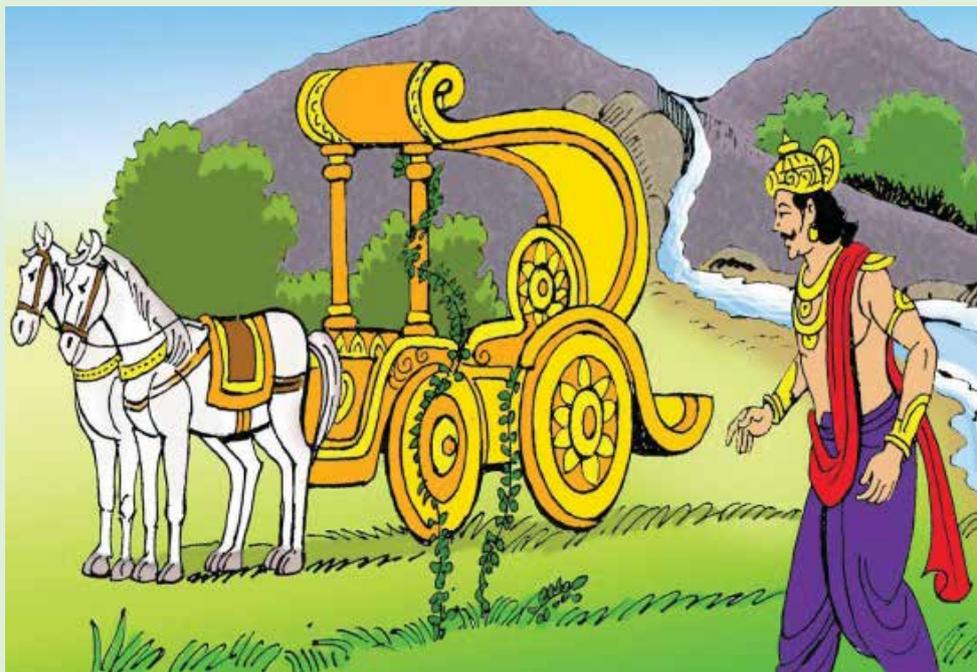
S Hari, *CSL Mettur Accounts.*

Vel Paari - the generous

Tamilians know Paari as one of Kadai ezhu vallalgal (The last seven patrons) "முல்லைக்கு தேர் கொடுத்தான் பாரி". But many may not know that this Paari was a great warrior. Paari is known for his generosity in the last Sangam era and was popular as one among the Kadai Ezhu Vallalgal (last seven patrons).

Paari's fame is described in Sangam literature as "முல்லைக்கு தேர் கொடுத்தான் பாரி" (One who gave his chariot to a climber). He was so generous that he gave away his chariot to a climber plant when he saw that it was struggling to grow without suitable support. Vel paari was from the family of "Malayaman" who controlled Parambu nadu and nearby places in ancient Tamil Nadu towards the end of the Sangam period.

Paari is described as the king of the hill country of Parambu nadu (modern



– day Tamil Nadu and Kerala stretching from Piranmalai in Sivaganga district, TN to Nedungadi in Palakkad district, Kerala) and held sway over 300 prosperous villages. Paari patronised various forms of art, literature and bards thronged his court for rewards. He was a good friend to the great poet Kapilar. In *Purananuru*, consisting of 107 poems written by Kapilar, there is reference to, "Paari". Most poets who lived during those days praised Paari.

'Moovendargal', three crowned Tamil kings called as Cheras, Cholas and Pandyas stretched their kingdoms ruthlessly and turned their attention towards independent Velir Kings thus turning them into subordinates or eliminating them and assimilated their kingdoms. They laid siege to the heavily fortified country of Parambu, but Vel Paari refused to give in and this war dragged for many years. After a long war, Vel Paari was killed by treachery. Pariyur ("place of Paari") or Parapuri near Gobichettipalayam in Tamil Nadu is named after this great king Paari.

Note: Though Paari is not a mythological character, his story relates more to such mythological story and hence this article has been featured here.

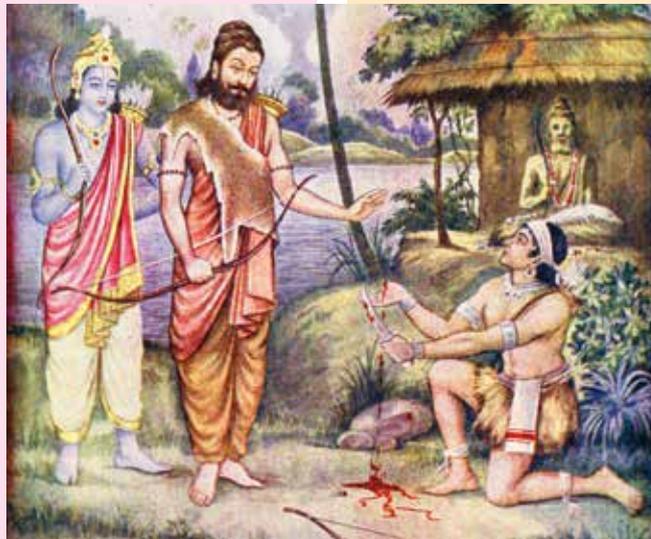
Dr B Manikandan, *SRS Training Institute, Corporate, Mettur.*

Ekalavya - Drona's disciple

Ekalavya was a young prince of Nishada, a hunter tribe. He wanted to become a great warrior by learning the skills from Dronacharya, the teacher of the Pandavas and the Kauravas. He approached Dronacharya but the latter turned him away as Ekalavya was from a lower caste.

Ekalavya was hurt but did not give up. He collected the soil on which Dronacharya walked and made an idol out of it. He treated Dronacharya's idol as the symbolic teacher and perfected himself in archery through years of practice.

When Dronacharya learned about Ekalavya's skill, he visited him to know about his Guru. Ekalavya then showed him the idol and said, "You are my Guru." Dronacharya was worried that Ekalavya would become a better archer than Arjuna, Dronacharya's favorite student. Therefore, he asked Ekalavya to give his right thumb as Guru Dakshina. Without any questions asked, Ekalavya chopped his thumb and gave it away to Dronacharya thus forfeiting an opportunity to be a better archer than Arjuna.



Ekalavya practised the art of archery with his left hand and feet. Then in the battle of Mahabharata, he offered his services to guru Drona. Then he had later become the king of the Nishadas. He was killed by Krishna when he tried to attack Dwarka. The elder son of Ekalavya, Ketuman, succeeded him and later fought from the side of the Kauravas in the Kurukshetra war, and was killed by Bheema. The Nishadas led by Ekalavya's son, were posed against Arjuna during Yudhishtira's Ashwamedha Yagna, in which Arjuna defeated and collected tribute from the Nishadas after a furious battle.

Poluboyina Prasad, *SSC Research & Development, Berigai.*

Ekalavya, the name itself triggers many emotions in our mind and that shall further trigger the neurons in our brain to begin interpreting the unique qualities and unconditional sacrifice associated with this name. It shall give various dimensions to different minds, and each of them can be unique in its own wisdom. Temptations to research more about this character shall possibly divert the core focus of the topic intended here. There are stories around this character which are relevant to the larger plot of establishing Dharma, however here it is limited only to the interpretations based on the high level understanding of the unique qualities.

Developing oneself by self learning, mastering the skill with utmost passion, respecting the source of learning

are some of the greatest qualities demonstrated by this character. The unconditional sacrifice is stressed via the plot of giving up his right thumb as Guru Dakshina. Possibly this is the only thing that stands in everyone's mind due to the fact that it was tied with emotions. It is one of the characters where every attribute is built in a positive tone. It

shall become too preachy if we start instructing someone to adopt those qualities. Neither reading nor visualisation shall give the essence of the total character. It should be felt and adopted.

There was always a distinction in the class of human society which existed from the beginning of human evolution. All must have started possibly as physically weak and strong, then it might have manifested as colour, creed and caste etc. Now it is more of a rich and poor, thus it has further widened the society. His story gives an insight about how a less privileged human could still overcome all those barriers and achieve greatness. The world is full of opportunities and every one shall attain greatness if passion prevails.

T Santhosh Kumar, *IT - Non Applications, Corporate, Karapakkam.*

Kanakadasa

Kanakadasa, the prominent disciple of Vyasaraaya was highly spiritual and well versed in meta-physics. His peers ridiculed him without realising his worth. So, his Guru Vyasaraaya decided to prove the greatness of Kanakadasa to all the other disciples. He ordered for a bunch of bananas, offered it to Lord Krishna and calling his disciples said, “Children, today being Ekadasi, accept this prasadam and eat it secretly in a place where no one can see”.

In the evening Guru questioned his disciples, “My dear students, did all of you eat the Prasadam? Where did you eat it? Will every one of you explain?”

One student said, “Sir, I stood behind the door and ate my banana fruit”, another one said, “It is not a difficult task Sir, I wrapped myself with the mat, and gobbled away the fruit”, like this each one revealed their hiding place. Finally it was Kanakadasa’s turn and his Guru questioned him “Kanaka, did you eat the fruit?”

Kanakadasa said, “Oh revered one, you must forgive me, I could not eat the fruit”, so saying he placed the fruit at his Guru’s feet. The Guru said, “You have disobeyed my orders”. Kanakadasa replied “My respected Guru, you must forgive me I was asked to eat this fruit, where nobody sees.” The Guru replied, “Yes, I said so, did not the other boys find such a place?” Kanaka replied, “The Omnipresent Lord Sri Hari, engulfing the entire universe is all-pervading. He is found even in the smallest atom. He is the greatest of the great and the smallest of the small. When he is inside and outside me how will I go searching for solitude, Oh! Respected Guru, please forgive me.”

“Well done Kanaka!” I wanted everyone to realise your wisdom and knowledge, just doing prayer is not enough, everyone should realise the omnipresence of God almighty”, said the proud Guru Vyasaraaya.

Dr C Prakash,
SSC Research &
Development, Berigai.



Thirukachi Nambigal - Lord's Friend

Great authoritative emperors and influential Kings were blessed to converse with their favourite deity. One such person was Thirukachi Nambigal, who was given “Acharya Pattam” (guide, instructor or teacher). He is the fourth son of Vysya, and inherited wealth at *Poo Irundha Alli* (now Poonamallee, Chennai). He grew up listening to stories of Sree Kanchi Varadharaja Perumal.



He used to fabricate garlands from flowers in his garden and walked from Poonamallee to Kanchipuram (more than 45 km) Sree Varadharaja’s temple to adorn and fan him. There, he discussed about spiritual and devotional matters with Sree Varadharaja and Sree Perundevi Thayar.

It is believed that once, Nambigal was sick and unable to perform his duties to Sree Varadharaja. So, like an eager mother expecting her child back, Lord Varadharaja was waiting with open arms to welcome Nambigal, as he didn’t return Lord himself went to his house and helped him recover.

Once when Nambigal was about to leave the temple to his house, there was heavy rain and he was worried about being late to be back at the temple. Disguised as a brahmin, Sree Varadharaja, carefully took Nambi to his place under an umbrella.

The Lord considered Nambigal as his closest, and talked to him just like any friend would, due to his supreme devotion to Him, devoid of any ego, and for being a true servant of the Lord, wanting nothing, but serve the Lord. Steadfast devotion and affection towards Him will make the Almighty be a friend much like our Nambigal. We can have a darshan of this glorified acharya swami at Tirupati, Srirangam and Kanchipuram.

T Mathan Raj, SMML Sand Post Knockout Fettleing,
Viralimalai.

Nehemiah

Nebuchadnezzar, the king of Babylon captured Judah during 605 BC and took Israelites as captives.

During this period, the Israelites were asked to sing their Lord's song. They sat by the rivers of Babylon, wept and said, "How can we sing the Lord's song in a strange land? These words were sung by the great BoneyM "By the rivers of Babylon". The duration of their exile was 70 years.

Cyrus, the Persian King invaded and captured Babylon as foretold by a prophet. The king said that God revealed him to release the exiled people and during his first year, he allowed all the people to go back to their native place and worship their God. They returned to Judah in three phases but not all because the wall of Jerusalem was broken by Nebuchadnezzar.

Nehemiah was in Sushan palace where Artererxes, the king of Persia lived. He was a cup-bearer to the king, an officer of high rank in royal courts to serve wine to the king and was regarded as thoroughly trustworthy to hold this position.

There were some people left behind in the exile who met Nehemiah and he enquired about his people and his land and came to know that they suffered a lot and the wall of Jerusalem was broken and there was no security. Anyone could invade without a wall and the gates were burned.

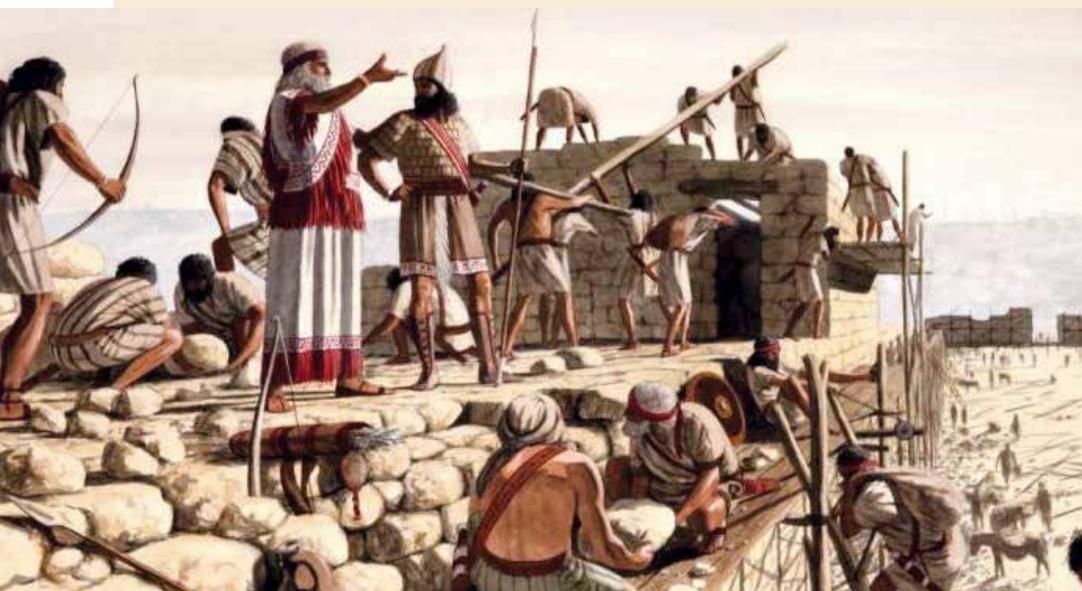
Nehemiah was compassionate with his people and land. He wanted to rebuild the wall and gates. He fasted before the Lord admitting their sins and pleaded for his grace and favour before the king. Nehemiah was sad. The king asked him why? Nehemiah replied, "How can I be happy when our ancestors' land is ruined and the wall is broken?" He also said that he would like to rebuild them. The king allowed. He also asked him to issue letters to the Governors beyond their territory to reach Judah and a letter to the keeper of the forest to get timber. It was granted to him.

He supervised the city during the night with some Israelites and he discussed with them to rebuild. The Israelites agreed and said, "Let us rise-up and build". The work was divided among the men according to the tribes. When they started their work, their enemies plotted many things including scheming plans, war against them, discouraging, threatening to kill, etc. When they finished half the work, those people became angry and tried stopping the work in many ways. He kept people to watch day and night when the work was in progress. He kept people by families with their swords, spears and bows. Also he said, "Do not be afraid of them think of the Lord and fight for your families." Those who carried the material to build the wall worked with one hand and held a weapon on the other. Each of the builders had a sword at his side at work.

The wall was finished in just 52 days.

Nehemiah expressed: "When all our enemies heard about this, all the surrounding nations were afraid and lost their self-confidence, because they realised that this work had been done with the help of our God".

M Milton Asirvadham,
Kalamkriya, Corporate, Head office.



David, the man after God's own heart

The Old Testament has many stories that we can take as lesson for life or as guiding principles to lead a good life. The story of David and Goliath is also one such story.

David was the son of Jesse, a respected citizen of Bethlehem. He was the youngest of the eight brothers in his family. He once displayed his valour by killing a lion and a bear which came to attack his flock of sheep.

King Saul was the first king of the Israelites. He was later rejected by God as a king. Prophet Samuel anointed David as the future king of Israel. When King Saul was forsaken by God, troubled by evil spirit and was depressed, David, being a harpist, played music to revive his spirit. While David was with King Saul, his exposure to governmental affairs prepared him to serve as King of Israel.

Once, Saul had to lead the army of Israel against the Philistine army. David, sent by his father, went to the battlefield to inquire of the welfare of three of his brothers, who served the army. The Philistine giant, Goliath, challenged the Israelites to fight with him. This stirred his spirit to encounter Goliath. David, with the help of a sling, struck him down with a stone and killed him with his own sword, which instantly made him a hero in the eyes of the civilians. This aroused jealousy and animosity in the heart of King Saul.

Saul promised that the victor in the battle with Goliath would be made his son-in-law, by giving one of his daughters as his wife and he would be free from paying tax to the nation. But, Saul gave his daughter in marriage to another man. David was forced to flee, with Saul in pursuit. Though David could have killed Saul, he did not do so because he realised that he was anointed by the Lord. Later, David was elected king of Israel.

Matthew refers to Jesus as the son of David, just to reiterate that he was a descendent of David.

God's promise of an eternal kingdom to David was fulfilled in Jesus.

David was a capable musician, he encouraged fine art. As a warrior and military man, he was resourceful and courageous. As a king, he had none equal to him. As a religious leader, he was exceptional. He sought God's will and followed God's leadership. His influence for good in the life of his nation was great. His writings help honest souls to walk closer with God.

David had been endowed with all the virtues desirable of a king. God Himself says: "I have found David a man after my own heart." He was an embodiment of Goodness, a chosen one and full of virtue and so he is one of my favourite Biblical characters.

M Lukeman Durai *for* **L Zibeon Haniel**,
Human Resources, Corporate, Head Office.



Athena - Goddess of wisdom

Athena, Goddess of wisdom, war and skill was perhaps the wisest, bravest and the most resourceful of all the Olympian gods. Often regarded as the favourite daughter of Zeus, she would go on to guide many heroes of Greek mythology like Perseus, Hercules, Odysseus and many more in their adventures.

She was literally the god of wisdom, her name itself reflecting this: a combination of “god” (theos) and “mind” (nous). Athena came to represent a particular form of nous - eminently practical and earthy.

Many stories of Athena’s birth have been passed down the generation. But in the most familiar one, she sprang out completely armed from the head of Zeus when it was split open by an axe by Hephaestus. Zeus came to power, and he absorbed all the wisdom (Mites) and from which knowledge and arts (Athena) developed.

Her rivalry with Poseidon over the patronage of the small city of Athens (then Attica) perhaps highlights her wisdom in the greatest light. They both wanted to be the patron of the village, but only one would do.

Poseidon wanted the townsfolk to choose, but they didn’t want to enter troubled waters. Athena, Goddess of wisdom, proposed a contest, both gods would give the town a gift and the townspeople could decide which gift was more useful. Poseidon laughed mightily and accepted the challenge. He hit the side of the mountain with his Trident and a stream appeared, people went excitedly to drink the water only to discover it to be seawater.

Athena waved her hand to raise an olive tree out of the soil, the people nibbled at the olives, and they were delicious. The olive trees would provide necessary wood, oil and sufficient food in times of famine. Impressed by her wisdom Poseidon, himself and not the people,

declared his niece as the winner. This is how a small village gained a powerful and wise guardian. They went on to name the city “Athens” in her honour.

She is the voice that comes to heroes in times of need, instilling in them a calm spirit, orienting their minds toward the perfect idea for victory and success. To be visited by Athena was the highest blessing of them all. Under her influence, a man or woman could see the world with perfect clarity and hit upon the action that was just right for the moment. In essence, Athena stood for rationality the greatest gift of the gods to mortals, for it alone could make a human act with divine wisdom.

Shramit Surendra Hegde, *XSL Field Sales & Service, Mumbai.*



Achilles the warrior

The legend Achilles was one of the greatest warriors in Greek Mythology. Achilles' father was Peleus, king of the Myrmidons, and his mother was Thetis, a sea nymph. After Achilles was born, his mother wanted to protect him from harm. She held him by the heel and dipped him into the river Styx. In Greek Mythology, the river Styx was located in the Underworld and had special powers. Achilles became invulnerable everywhere but not at his heel where his mother held him. Because Achilles was a half-god, he was very strong and soon became a great warrior. However, he was also half human and wasn't immortal like his mother. He would get old and die someday and he could also be killed.

Achilles death

During Trojan War **Achilles** could not be killed but the Greek god Apollo knew his weakness. When Paris of Troy shot an arrow at Achilles, the god Apollo guided it so that it struck Achilles on the heel. Achilles eventually died from the wound.

The fames idiom the achilles 'heel'

Today, the term "Achilles' heel" is used to describe a point of weakness that could lead to ones' downfall.

Lesson

- All actions should be done with proper planning and according to the procedure.



- A problem seems small but in course of time, becomes critical, so being proactive is necessary.
- Success is mortal it has to be periodically scrutinised for it to last longer.
- "Even crowned king is a handful of ashes in the end". Even though Achilles is a demigod, man with arrogance, jealousy and greed will eventually be a failure in life.

K Thangamani, *CSL Power Plant Operations, Mettur.*

Myths or as they call it 'Other people's religion'

Humankind fears the unknown and has an irresistible urge to explain everything around them, the origin of myth. Ancient man terrified of the sulphur emissions and tectonic movement invented the myth of the underground world 'Hell'. The life-giving sunshine and rain coming from above gave birth to the myth 'heaven' above us.

Myths percolate to our everyday life. We love myths and associated stories and they certainly enrich our language, for instance the days of the week, planets, to the names of our own galaxy. What about us, mortals? I can be a narcissist or mercurial, certainly not Adonis! My task could be Herculean or Sisyphean if so I can cut the Gordian knot. I look in to the stygian depth of my soul (there...another myth!) and see a Hydra. Have you ever wondered how English, a Germanic language has so many words relating to Greek and Roman myths, well, that is another story.

Here is how myths filter down across cultures over millennia. May be, it would have occurred to the ancient Sumerians, that their epic be assimilated as a part of creationism in the Old Testament a thousand years later? Or would you have guessed Vikram - Betaal is the source of One Thousand and One Nights? Whatever folks let us not upset the applecart.

R Ramesh, *Shipping Operations, Head Office.*

Mythology Word Search

Z	T	O	A	P	O	S	E	I	D	O	N	N	N
D	E	I	O	O	S	G	I	S	S	H	S	H	O
A	E	U	N	L	E	T	I	D	O	R	H	P	A
N	R	I	S	S	E	M	T	I	T	A	N	S	Y
E	N	U	D	S	E	O	A	G	E	G	R	U	N
H	O	O	S	T	R	R	L	A	R	P	I	S	R
T	G	S	R	S	H	Y	M	L	R	L	I	Y	A
A	E	A	P	A	R	E	H	C	O	E	P	N	T
E	N	D	A	I	R	A	A	A	M	P	S	O	R
E	H	T	N	I	R	Y	B	A	L	S	A	I	A
S	H	A	D	E	S	T	N	A	I	G	D	D	P
C	R	E	T	E	D	R	E	T	E	M	E	D	S
D	I	O	H	A	K	I	N	G	M	I	N	O	S
N	S	U	P	M	Y	L	O	T	N	U	O	M	E

How quickly can you find all these mythological characters in the word search?

- | | |
|-----------|------------|
| ARIADNE | HADES |
| ARTEMIS | KING MINOS |
| DEMETER | ZEUS |
| MOUNT | POSEIDON |
| OLYMPUS | SPARTA |
| APHRODITE | GODS |
| APOLLO | CRETE |
| GIANTS | ARES |
| LABYRINTH | TITANS |
| DIONYSUS | HERA |
| ATHENA | |

Sudoku

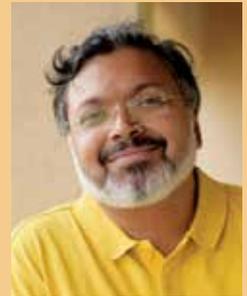
	7					3		
9				8				5
	6			3		1		
6	2				4	8		
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		1	8				5	7
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N	S	U	P	M	Y	L	O	T	N	U	O	M	E
S	H	A	D	E	S	T	N	A	I	G	D	D	P
E	H	T	N	I	R	Y	B	A	L	S	A	I	A
E	N	D	A	I	R	A	A	A	M	P	S	O	R
A	E	A	P	A	R	E	H	C	O	E	P	N	T
T	G	S	R	S	H	Y	M	L	R	L	I	Y	A
H	O	O	S	T	R	R	L	A	R	P	I	S	R
E	N	U	D	S	E	O	A	G	E	G	R	U	N
N	R	I	S	S	E	M	T	I	T	A	N	S	Y
A	E	U	N	L	E	T	I	D	O	R	H	P	A
D	E	I	O	O	S	G	I	S	S	H	S	H	O
Z	T	O	A	P	O	S	E	I	D	O	N	N	N

7	4	6	5	2	8	3	9	1
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2	6	9	4	7	3	5	1	8
9	1	3	2	8	6	7	4	5
8	7	5	1	4	9	6	3	2

Guess who?!

Devdutt Pattanaik is an Indian mythologist, speaker, illustrator and author, known for his writing on sacred lore, legends, folklore, fables and parables. His work focuses largely on the areas of myth, religion, mythology, and management.



Pattanaik has incorporated the Mahabharata and the Ramayana into human resource management. He has written books on the relevance of sacred stories, symbols and rituals in modern times; his more popular books include Myth = Mythia: A Handbook of Hindu Mythology; Jaya: An Illustrated Retelling of the Mahabharata; and Sita: An Illustrated Retelling of the Ramayana and My Gita. Pattanaik writes columns for Times of India, CN Traveller etc. He hosts a radio show / podcast for Radio Mirchi called the Devdutt Pattanaik Show.

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