

Exploring the Intersection of Tales, Myths, and Cultural Narratives in the Literary work of Sudha Murty

Tharun M¹

Gobi Arts & Science College Gobichettipalayam

Abstract:- Throughout history, tales, myths, and cultural expressions have woven a rich tapestry of human storytelling, transcending borders and bridging civilizations. This study explores the dynamic blend of folklore, myths, and cultural narratives across epochs, analyzing common themes and archetypes that reveal our shared human experience. Emphasizing the role of oral traditions, it examines how stories adapt to societal changes, shaped by beliefs, rituals, and norms. By looking at the impact of globalization and technology on these narratives, the study celebrates storytelling's power to connect and preserve cultural identity, offering insights into its enduring relevance in today's world.

Keywords:- Oral Traditions, Cultural Identity, Collective Human Experience.

I. INTRODUCTION

According to *Encyclopedia Britannica*, "Literature is a body of written works." While this definition provides a standard view, I believe it is somewhat restrictive, as it overlooks the value of unwritten forms of literature such as tales, songs, and folklore. These oral traditions are powerful communication tools that contribute significantly to cultural narratives and heritage. Including both written and unwritten forms allows a fuller appreciation of the diverse ways stories and values are shared across generations.

II. TALES

Sudha Murty's stories, rich in simplicity and profound insights, highlight essential human values that resonate deeply with readers. Defined as shorter, simpler narratives often shared through oral tradition, tales such as Murty's bring to life the enduring qualities of honesty, humility, gratitude, and compassion. Her works, including *Wise and Otherwise*, *The Old Man and His God*, *The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk*, and *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read*, depict relatable characters—ordinary people reflecting society's core values. For example, in "The Deserving Candidate," a protagonist's dedication to honesty and altruism shines through as he donates his earnings to support a student trust. In "In Sahyadri Hill," Murty teaches the grace of accepting gifts with humility, while "Too Many Questions" encourages readers to value a gift's thoughtfulness over its monetary worth. Her stories also emphasize gratitude, as seen in "Three Bright Young Men" and "Oh Teacher, I Salute

Thee," where a student reveres a teacher devoted to knowledge, untainted by material pursuits. Themes of selflessness continue in "No Man's Garden," about a community garden grown solely to help the poor, and "Rahman's Avva," a tale of kinship beyond religious differences. Murty's tales often spotlight dignity, such as in "Treat Me as a Human," where a poor couple declines financial aid for their son's birthday, reflecting their self-respect. Furthermore, she addresses societal concerns; "May You Be the Mother of a Hundred Children" portrays Ambakka's selfless work aiding women in her village, and "A Tale of Two Brothers" highlights how wealth can divide people rather than unite them. Narratives like "Each Mop Counts" depict dedication and responsibility through the diligence of a nurse, while "An Old Man's Ageless Wisdom" imparts a timeless perspective on life's blessings as communal gifts rather than possessions. Finally, Murty reminds readers of the significance of patriotism and integrity in "Forgetting Our Own History," encouraging unity and national pride. Her stories collectively reinforce optimism, reminding us that life is a gift to be cherished and lived with compassion, resilience, and generosity. Sudha Murty's tales, shining with values like humility, kindness, and authenticity, continue to offer timeless lessons that inspire and uplift, urging readers to lead lives of purpose and humanity.

III. CONCLUSION

The confluence of tales, myths, and culture in literature highlights the timeless power of storytelling. Literature, while evolving with contemporary influences, continues to draw from its ancient roots, making it an enduring medium for exploring the complexities of human experience and celebrating the rich diversity of global heritage. As readers and writers, we are part of this ongoing narrative that links us to the past, shapes our present, and inspires the future. Through literature, we find a shared history and a vision for what lies ahead, uniting us in a journey that transcends time and culture.

REFERENCES

- [1]. Sudha Murty (2006), *The Old Man and His God*. New Delhi: Penguin Books. Print
- [2]. Sudha Murty (2002), *Wise and Otherwise: A Salute to Life*. Penguin Books. Print
- [3]. Sudha Murty (2004), *How I Taught My Grandmother to Read and Other Stories*. Penguin Books. Print

- [4]. Sudha Murty (2012), The Day I Stopped Drinking Milk. New Delhi: Penguin Books. Print
- [5]. Pai Jyothi Ramesh: A Study of Indian Values reflected in the selected works of Sudha Murty and Ruskin Bond. Shodhganga June 2015. web