

Exploring the interplay Between Indian folklore and Manoj Das Narrative Universe: An Overview

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Abstract

Indian folklore constitutes a rich repository of myths, legends, oral traditions, spiritual beliefs, cultural memories, and indigenous wisdom that has significantly influenced Indian literature. This study explores the interplay between Indian folklore and the narrative universe of Manoj Das, an acclaimed Indian writer known for blending realism, mysticism, philosophy, and elements of the supernatural. The study examines how Das draws upon folklore, mythology, traditional beliefs, rural experiences, and spiritual consciousness to create narratives that connect the ordinary with the extraordinary. His stories frequently incorporate folk motifs, symbolic figures, legends, miraculous events, and oral storytelling techniques, while simultaneously engaging with modern human concerns such as identity, morality, faith, scepticism, social relationships, and the search for meaning. Particular attention is given to the manner in which folklore functions not merely as a decorative literary element but as a medium for exploring psychological and philosophical dimensions of human existence. The study also considers how Das transforms traditional narratives and cultural motifs through imaginative reinterpretation, making them relevant to contemporary readers. His narrative approach demonstrates an interaction between inherited cultural knowledge and modern literary sensibility, creating a distinctive space where myth, folklore, fantasy, and everyday reality coexist. The study concludes that Manoj Das's engagement with Indian folklore contributes to the preservation and reinterpretation of cultural traditions while offering deeper reflections on human nature, spirituality, and social life. His works demonstrate the continuing relevance of folklore in contemporary Indian English literature.

Keywords: Indian Folklore, Manoj Das, Indian English Literature, Narrative Universe, Mythology, Oral Tradition, Mysticism, Folk Culture, Storytelling, Cultural Heritage, Spirituality, Folklore Studies, Contemporary Literature.

