ANALYSING THE PARALLELS AND DIVERGENCES IN MYTHOPOEIA AND THE MULTIVERSE

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ABSTRACT: The captivating interplay between old tales and the boundless cosmos has undergone an enthralling transformation, from the pages of classical fiction to the brilliant spectacle of Hollywood movies. This narrative growth not only reflects shifting viewer preferences, but it also captures the heart of our shared storytelling experience. The confrontation between mythopoeia and the multiverse has caused a revolutionary change in speculative fiction, as traditional myth-making has converged with a modern obsession with multiverse intricacies. We explore the continuing relevance of mythology as a symbolic language that ties people to the collective human experience via an examination of ancient epics such as *The Ramayana* and *The Mahabharata*, as well as current myth-making in Marvel's cinematic universe. This excursion delves into cosmic resonances, archetypal figures, and further research explores the dynamic interplay of cultural influences, illuminating the timeless allure of storytelling across cultures and epochs. Moreover, this exploration into the interplay of mythology and the cosmos reveals a profound symbiosis between human imagination and the vast expanse of the universe. Through mythic narratives, we embark on journeys that transcend the limitations of space and time, inviting us to contemplate the mysteries of existence and our place within the cosmic order. As we navigate the celestial realms of storytelling, we encounter echoes of ancient wisdom and timeless truths, resonating across cultures and epochs. From the hero's journey to the cosmic battle between good and evil, mythology serves as a lens through which we interpret our reality and explore the depths of the human experience. In this fusion of ancient myths and modern marvels, we discover a continuum of storytelling that spans the ages, uniting humanity in a shared quest for meaning and understanding in the ever-expanding universe.

Keywords:- Mythopoeia, Multiverse, fiction, Ancient epics, Cultural influences

INTRODUCTION:

The ancient dance between mythopoeia and the multiverse has experienced a fascinating metamorphosis in the enchanted fabric of narrative, emerging from the timeless pages of classical fiction into the brilliant limelight of Hollywood film. Imagine it as a vast narrative in which myths from antiquity talk to the cosmos, and they all dance through our minds. This story's development not only reflects the changing preferences of viewers but also perfectly encapsulates the essence of our shared storytelling journey, in which timeless tales coexist with glittering threads of multiverse intrigue.

In the realm of speculative fiction, the clash between mythopoeia and the multiverse has sparked a transformative shift from classical fantasy to the grand stages of Hollywood cinema. This evolution, marked by a divergence in storytelling approaches, reflects not only the

changing narrative trends but also the dynamic interplay between traditional myth-making and the contemporary fascination with multiversal complexities. The realms of imagination as we explore the nuances of this transition and its impact on the enchanting worlds brought to life on the silver screen. Mythology is significant in offering insights into the common elements of the human experience because it serves as a symbolic language that ties the individual to the collective. likewise, **Mircea Eliade** describes mythology as *"An influential historian of religion, Eliade believed that mythology serves as a sacred history"* that gives a model for human behaviour and connects people to the divine. In Hindu mythology, *The Ramcharitmanas*, ascribed to Tulsidas, is a monumental epic that deftly interweaves themes of cosmic order, duty (dharma), and the ongoing struggle between forces of good and evil. Based on the life of Lord Rama, this story transcends religion, influencing cultural manifestations and offering an eternal setting for investigating cosmic resonances. thorough examination of cosmic themes, archetypal characters, and the interaction of cultural influences. Marvel's science fiction stories, rendered visually stunning, are an example of modern myth-making with a strong literary heritage. The enduring human fascination with the cosmic unknown is explored through a modern lens by means of characters like Thor, who draws inspiration from mythology, and cosmic entities like Eternity, which resonate with ancient archetypes. Technology, space, and the vast cosmic scale are all used to reinvent mythology in Marvel's universe, which transforms into a dynamic canvas. In Marvel science fiction movies, the multiverse is a large and complicated system of parallel worlds, each with its own set of realities and people. This approach allows for various versions of known characters and diverse narratives, which adds to the depth of the Marvel film universe. Approximately 1500–1200 BCE, the Rigveda is an ancient Indian sacred text that is considered the oldest and most fundamental hymnal collection of the Hindu scriptures known as the Vedas. The Rigveda is a collection of ten books, or mandalas, composed in early Sanskrit that are devoted to different gods, cosmic principles, and natural forces.

Looking at *The Ramayana*, the ancient Indian epic attributed to the sage Valmiki, unfolds as a captivating narrative of love, duty, and righteousness. Composed in Sanskrit, this epic poem is the cornerstone of Hindu mythology and literature, dating back to approximately 500 BCE. *The Ramayana* chronicles the life and adventures of Prince Rama, his wife Sita, and his loyal companion Hanuman. Moving ahead to another most important text in Hinduism, *the Shiva Purana*, provides a deep look into the cosmology, mythology, and spiritual lessons related to Lord Shiva. It is commonly credited to the sage Vyasa and comprises 24,000 verses. It is thought to have been written between the fourth and sixth centuries CE. The divine persona of Lord Shiva is examined in this Purana in several ways, such as his cosmic dance, manifestations, and function as the destroyer of the holy trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. Then *The Mahabharata*, one of the world's longest epic poems, is a monumental Indian saga that transcends time and encompasses diverse facts of human existence. Attributed to the sage Vyasa, *the Mahabharata* is believed to have been composed between 400 BCE and 400 CE. This epic unfolds on the precipice of the Kurukshetra War, where two factions of a royal family, the Pandavas, and the Kauravas, engage in a profound conflict.

LITERATURE REVIEW
        Shashi Shekhar (2023), asserts that Hinduism is replete with elaborate tales and strong gods, each possessing special skills and attributes. These gods might be viewed as the forerunners of the superheroes of today's fictional comics in many aspects. Particularly Marvel movies have a long history of using mythology and religion in their narratives. this post examined the parallels between the gods of Hindu mythology and Marvel Comics in this blog post.The article from *(Astro)2023*explores the many components of Hinduism that affected Dr.

Strange's abilities. Dr. Strange's powers in the Marvel Universe are heavily influenced by Hindu mythology. Examining the relationship between Dr. Strange's talents and Hindu notions such as astral projection, karma, chakras, and the third eye is appreciate the character's spiritual depth. Dr. Strange's powers include Hindu gods and goddesses, which reinforces the link to Hinduism. Understanding Dr. Strange's Hindu inspirations helps us grasp the character and the story's larger cultural relevance. Exploring the convergence between Hinduism and Dr. Strange allows us to dive into the metaphysical and spiritual qualities that make the character so intriguing and distinct. The article by *Shashank (2023)* highlights while conducting a comparative study of Hindu mythology and marvel through the lens of protectors he analysis that Introducing Hindu gods into the Marvel world has the ability to expand and deepen the cosmos. However, this endeavour must be approached with compassion and respect for the culture and beliefs linked with Hindu mythology. The representation of Hindu gods in any form of media should be done with care and responsibility, avoiding errors or inappropriate images that may be harmful to Hindu faith. This article by *Chatterji(2023)* describes an Indian superhero comic based on *the Ramayana*, in which the epic's key protagonist, Rama, is depicted as the superhero Nagraj. The narrative used the figure of the avatara (reincarnated one) to connect the epic realm with the modern world by infusing science-fiction elements into their storytelling. These re-tellings appear to be leaning on science fiction tactics to modernize the epics and elevate mythological beings to the status of superheroes. However, these tactics are not novel. Parallel compositional approaches in folk epics foreshadow these science-fictional ideas. In this insightful analysis by *(Deutsch) 2021*, curator of Folklore at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, the intricate role of Loki in trickster mythology is meticulously explored in the context of Marvel Studios' new Disney+ series, "Loki." author adeptly navigates through the nuanced portrayal of Loki as the "god of mischief" and the delicate balance between playful trickery and malevolent cruelty inherent in trickster figures. Drawing parallels to global folklore traditions, including Norse mythology and Native American tales, the article highlights Loki's universal appeal as a multifaceted character characterized by intelligence, unpredictability, and defiance of authority. Through an engaging exploration of Loki's cultural significance and folkloric attributes, it offers valuable insights into the enduring allure of trickster figures across diverse mythological traditions and their relevance in contemporary popular culture. With counterparts of Hindu Gods like Captain Marvel, Scarlet Witch, The Hulk, Thor. *Gargi (2022)*, argues that movies occasionally draw inspiration from mythology and ancient civilization. the significant roles were witnessed. However, the Gods of the Egyptians were not the only ones who alluded to Marvel superheroes. Marvel comics feature Hindu Gods. They draw direct influence from the Hindu Gods. By reading this list in the article it was found that the inspiration of characters is from Hindu Gods like Lord Shiva, Lord Indra, and lord Brahma. *Niveditha Syam, T. Manjima Prakash, and Geetha R. Pai (2019)* suggest that Marvel was able to preserve the core of Norse mythology while updating the story, cast, and location. The films adopted the comics' disregard for authentic Norse mythology. Marvel declined to repeat the myths because they did not want to embrace their history in that way. They aimed to narrate novel and inventive tales that possessed the strength and essence of mythology. Outside of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Norse mythology is frequently referenced, but owing to the MCU, Thor, Loki, and other Asgardians are well-known figures.In this paper by *(Evans)2018* exploration of the role of mythology in shaping modern narratives, the paper draws attention to the enduring significance of myths as foundational elements in contemporary media. By emphasizing the universal appeal of the hero's journey and its ability to transcend cultural boundaries, the findings underscores how myths serve as vital conduits for cross-cultural connection and understanding. Through examples ranging from classic literature to blockbuster films like "Black Panther" and "A Wrinkle in Time," it illustrates how modern narratives not only reflect diverse cultural

perspectives but also contribute to shaping progressive social and cultural attitudes. Furthermore, it highlights the trans formative power of modern mythology in depicting the evolving nature of cultures worldwide. Overall, it asserts that myths continue to play a central role in modern media, serving as bridges between cultures and offering authentic insights into the human experience across the globe. In this paper *(Scerri)2016* explores the intersection between mythology and science fiction, the article delves into the multifaceted ways in which ancient myths are re-imagined and rationalized within the realm of speculative fiction. Through the astute observations of authors such as *James Blish, Patricia Kennealy-Morrison, and Dan Simmons*, the article elucidates how mythology serves as a rich source of inspiration for science fiction narratives, both in terms of re-enactment and rationalization. By analyzing examples ranging from the reinterpretation of Arthurian legends in Kennealy-Morrison's "The Keltiad" series to Dan Simmons' innovative blending of Greek mythology with futuristic elements in "Ilium" and "Olympos," the article highlights the dynamic and evolving nature of mythic narratives. Moreover, it underscores the enduring relevance of mythology in shaping contemporary storytelling and its profound impact on the human imagination across cultures and generations. Through an extensive literature review on the topic it has been analysed that the areas explored till now need further exploration, we could explore how the evolution of narrative structures or protagonists of classical fantasy influences the development of characters in Hollywood cinema. This includes examining the symbolic roles of characters in mythopoeic worlds compared to the complexities introduced by multiverse storytelling. This paper by *(Sanil)2016* examines the conception of Indian superheroes via a mythological-religious perspective, and it seeks to explain why Indian comics and superheroes have not achieved the same level of popularity as their Western counterparts. As figures from Hindu mythology make up the majority of superheroes in Indian comics, Campbell's theories of mythology and heroes, as well as Jungian archetypes, is discussed here, The study also examines the functional parallels and contrasts between superhero comics in the West and Hindu mythology in India, and draws conclusions regarding their cultural importance. *Akshay Sidharth (2016)*, confirms that Indian mythology has played a crucial role in the development of the superhero and comic book industries and that Indian mythological characters have had a significant influence on the current superhero genre. The designers of superhero characters have heavily altered several characteristics of Indian mythical characters to satisfy their aesthetic and entertainment needs. *Aishwarya Javalgekar (2014)* observes that there are obvious similarities between the myths of the Vedas, Greeks, and Norsemen, as well as between Indra, Zeus, and Thor. This research paper suggests the society structure as an explanation for these parallels, while there are many other viable explanations as well. The similarities between Vedic and Norse mythology, which developed over a great deal of geographical space, are best explained by this explanation. Still, Zeus and Indra seem to have more in common than either Thor and Zeus or Thor and Indra. This may be related to the increased exchange of ideas and cultural practices between Vedic and Greek societies. *Uday Dokras (2009)* argues that Hinduism offers a view of the world that is far more organized and colourful than the other religions mentioned. The comparison was largely investigated and highlighted in the paper like Zeus and Indra, instances of *The Ramayana*, and many more, which is a clear indication of the influence of Hindu mythology in modern sci-fi movies/comics. *(Das)* In his paper, he addresses the re-adaptation of myths in the contemporary world by substantiating the works with particular theories with the explanation of the how adaptation or re-telling of the ancient legendary society is done and the moulding of the mythology in the modern world. this study looks deeper into the intricate relationship between Indian mythology and contemporary society, particularly focusing on the politics and processes of myth-making in India. An insightful article by *(Inturi)*the author explores the intricate ties between Marvel's "Doctor Strange" and Hindu mythology, highlighting how the film incorporates ancient beliefs

and references into its magical narrative. From the significance of "Shamballa" as the birthplace of Kalki to the parallels between the Kalachakra and Doctor Strange's time manipulation, the article draws compelling connections between the movie and Hindu mythological concepts.

Further, we look at the questions that arise How did the evolution from mythopoeia to multiverse storytelling influence the themes, and motifs in speculative fiction, based on insights from authors and filmmakers? and What comparative analysis can be made between the character development, and world-building techniques employed in mythopoeic and multiverse-based fantasy narratives?

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES
Looking at the review the research shift from mythopoeia to the multiverse in classical fantasy to Hollywood cinema involves exploring various dimensions. Here are potential research objectives:
- to investigate the historical development of mythopoeia in classical fantasy literature and the emergence of the multiverse concept in speculative fiction, identifying key milestones and influences.
- to analyze classical fantasy literature to identify prevalent themes, narrative structures, and mythopoeic elements.
- to explore how these mythopoeic elements are adapted or transformed in Hollywood cinema, examining trends, changes, and the reasons behind narrative shifts.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY:
The shift from Mythopoeia to the multiverse concept in classical fantasy and its influence on Hollywood cinema methodology Begins with an extensive review of academic literature, books, articles, and film analyses related to classical fantasy, mythopoeia, and multiverses in Hollywood cinema. This will provide a theoretical foundation of research we would look at the secondary readings available through critical commentaries, books, journals, research articles, magazines, blogs, and newspapers. Moving forward, the research design would initially focus on analyzing classic fantasy literature from different periods to identify trends and elements of mythopoeia. This can involve reading and categorizing classic fantasy works. Similarly, the research would focus on conducting a content analysis of Hollywood Films to identify the prevalence and characteristics of multiverse concepts. Using film databases, scripts, and critical reviews for this analysis and examining the historical context and cultural factors that may have contributed to this shift in storytelling approaches, drawing on qualitative historical research methods.

RESEARCH ANALYSIS:
Comparison of Hindu Gods to Marvel

THOR/ZEUS AND LORD INDRA
Gods of Thunder and Lightning:
Thor, Zeus, and Lord Indra are all associated with thunder and lightning in their respective mythologies. They are considered gods of storms and wield lightning as part of their divine attributes.
Mighty Warriors:
Thor, Zeus, and Lord Indra are powerful and skilled warriors in their pantheons. They often engage in battles against formidable foes and are regarded as protectors of their realms.
Divine Weapons:

Each deity possesses a distinctive weapon associated with their power. Thor wields the enchanted hammer Mjolnir, Zeus the thunderbolt, and Lord Indra the Vajra (thunderbolt or lightning bolt).

Leadership Roles:

Thor, Zeus, and Lord Indra are leaders of their respective pantheons, holding significant positions among the gods. They exercise authority and play essential roles in maintaining cosmic order.

Sky Gods:

All three deities are associated with the sky and are considered sky gods. They control elements related to the heavens, such as storms and atmospheric phenomena.

Symbolism of Eagles:

Eagles are often associated with these deities. Thor has the eagle companion Huginn, Zeus is sometimes represented with an eagle, and Lord Indra is depicted riding on the celestial eagle Garuda.

Mythological Epics:

Thor appears in Norse mythology, Zeus in Greek mythology, and Lord Indra in Hindu epics such as *the Rigveda* and *the Mahabharata*. They play prominent roles in the mythological narratives of their respective cultures.

HULK AND LORD HANUMAN

Incredible Strength:

Lord Hanuman is known for his immense physical strength, often depicted carrying mountains and performing heroic feats. The Hulk, particularly in his enraged state, is one of the strongest characters in the Marvel Universe, with superhuman strength that increases with his anger.

Devotion and Loyalty:

Hanuman is revered for his unwavering devotion to Lord Rama and his loyalty to serving him. The Hulk, particularly in human form as Bruce Banner, grapples with themes of loyalty, identity, and control over his powerful alter ego.

Transformation:

Lord Hanuman has the ability to change his size and take various forms, showcasing his divine nature.
The Hulk transforms from the mild-mannered Bruce Banner into a giant, powerful green-skinned behemoth when provoked.

Heroic Actions:

Both characters engage in heroic actions. Hanuman played a crucial role in *the Ramayana*, while the Hulk often used his strength to protect others in the Marvel Universe.

Fearlessness:

Hanuman is fearless in the face of challenges and adversaries, displaying courage and determination.
The Hulk, particularly in his enraged state, is often portrayed as fearless and relentless.

Dr. STRANGE AND LORD SHIVA

Mystical Abilities:

Shiva is associated with yogic practices, meditation, and mystical powers. Doctor Strange master of mystic arts, using meditation and magic for protection.

Symbolic Artifacts:

Shiva is depicted with a trident and serpent, symbolizing creation, preservation, and destruction. Doctor Strange wields the Eye of Agamotto, a powerful mystical artefact for manipulating time and reality.

Role as Protectors:
   Shiva is considered a cosmic guardian, ensuring the cyclical nature of creation and destruction. Doctor Strange serves as Earth's protector, defending against mystical threats in the Marvel Universe.

Third Eye and Perception:
   Shiva's third eye represents inner perception and seeing beyond the physical realm. Doctor Strange's journey involves gaining deeper insight and understanding beyond ordinary human perception.

HAWKEYE AND ARJUNA

Exceptional Archery Skills:
   Arjuna is renowned for his unparalleled archery skills in *the Mahabharata* and is often considered the greatest archer in Hindu mythology. Hawkeye, as portrayed in Marvel comics, is a master archer known for his precision and accuracy with a bow and arrow.

Mortal Skills Among Superheroes:
   Both characters stand out in their respective universes for their exceptional archery skills, despite being surrounded by superpowered individuals.

Versatility in Weaponry:
   Arjuna and Hawkeye are not limited to just bows and arrows. They showcase versatility in using various weapons and are skilled warriors in broader combat.

Strategic Thinkers:
   Arjuna is known for his strategic thinking on the battlefield, as depicted in *the Mahabharata*. Hawkeye, in addition to his archery prowess, is often portrayed as a tactician and strategic thinker among the Avengers.

Role in Epic Battles:
   Arjuna played a pivotal role in the Kurukshetra War in *the Mahabharata*. Hawkeye is a key member of the Avengers, contributing to epic battles against powerful adversaries in the Marvel Universe.

Human Element Amidst Superheroes:
   Arjuna, like Hawkeye, represents the human element in a world filled with gods and mythical beings. Both characters showcase that skill, determination, and strategy can make a significant impact, even in the presence of superhuman abilities.

DISCUSSION:
   The analytical exploration of mythical and superhero characters reveals significant links between ancient narratives and contemporary storytelling. Archetypal elements common across cultures, such as thunder and lightning gods like Thor, Zeus, and Lord Indra, highlight humanity's fascination with natural forces and power. Figures like Hulk and Lord Hanuman exemplify the great warrior archetype, embodying courage and the triumph of good over evil. The study of weaponry and leadership roles, like Thor's hammer or Captain America's leadership, underscores the timeless appeal of heroes wielding exceptional power and authority. The juxtaposition of mystics like Dr. Strange and Lord Shiva highlights the enduring preoccupation with cosmic guardianship and spiritual enlightenment. Mortal heroes like Hawkeye and Arjuna demonstrate the allure of remarkable skill and strategic brilliance, showing that relatable human attributes remain fundamental in storytelling. This study broadens our understanding of cultural mythologies and emphasizes the universality of certain themes and motifs, underscoring the timeless human fascination with heroic archetypes across diverse cultures. These characters reflect the ideals, anxieties, and ambitions of their civilizations, illustrating humanity's preoccupation with power, honor, and justice. The exploration of these links enhances our understanding of universal truths and human values,

emphasizing the significance of cultural interaction in shaping our collective imagination and identity.

CONCLUSION:

To conclude, we can say that this investigation provides an engaging prism through which to view the dynamic interaction between science fiction's futuristic visions and Indian mythologies' timeless wisdom. The characters thrive as complex channels between science and classics; this study explores the complex role characters play, representing the interface between futuristic landscapes and traditional cultural narratives; the characters serve as vehicles for cultural fusion and conflict, providing a lens through which to examine the evolution of identities in this dynamic interplay; as they traverse the intersection of tradition and innovation, their stories become a canvas reflecting the intricacies of cultural adaptation; furthermore, the representation of characters goes beyond individual journeys, incorporating archetypal figures such as heroes and deities, which act as cultural touchpoints. Examining the characters in this pursuit not only move the story along, but they also capture the spirit of the intricate web that connects science fiction with Indian mythology, expressing the conflict, coexistence, and development that are inherent in this artistic union. In addition, this exploration highlights the trans-formative power of storytelling as a bridge between the ancient and the modern, the familiar and the fantastical. Through the lens of characters, we witness the ongoing dialogue between tradition and innovation, as well as the resilience of mythic themes in an ever-changing world. As characters navigate the complexities of their dual identities, they embody the tension between past and future, embodying the timeless struggle for balance and harmony in the face of technological advancement and cultural evolution. Ultimately, the portrayal of characters in science fiction narratives rooted in Indian mythology offers a profound reflection of humanity's enduring quest for meaning, connection, and transcendence, underscoring the enduring relevance of mythic storytelling in an age of rapid change and uncertainty.

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