



The Portrayal of Hindu Mythology in Select Anime: A Critical Overview

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Abstract

Contemporary global pop culture is fascinated by myths from various cultures. This is evident in the numerous references to myths in contemporary global pop culture. We find frequent retellings of myths in cinema, fiction, comics, and so on. Japanese pop culture, especially manga and anime, deserves special mention in this context. Throughout history, manga artists and anime directors have been fascinated by myths, religious scriptures, and esoteric concepts from around the globe, including those of Hinduism. Anime is famous for their multifaceted references to Hindu mythology. Although anime often draws on Hindu mythology, there is a lack of critical studies of its representation. Thus, the proposed study aims to fill this research gap. This paper will analyze the depiction of Hindu mythology in three anime series- *DanMachi*, *High School DxD*, and *Rage of Bahamut: Genesis*-and examine the significance of the Hindu references within their diegetic worlds. The proposed study draws on the tripartite intertextual schema of appropriation-allusion-bricolage and Jolyon Baraka Thomas' concept of "show" as its theoretical frameworks.

Keywords: Anime, Hindu Mythology, Japanese Popular Culture, Retelling of Myths, Anime Studies.