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, Mythic Resonances: Cultural Memory in the Fiction of Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni

Dattaprasad Dnyandeo Palwe
Research Student
&
Dr Kishorkumar Gangadhar Gaikawad
Research Guide
Dept of English and Research Center,
Mula Education Society's
Arts, Commerce and Science College,
Sonai, Tal, Nevasa, Dist- Ahilyanagar

Abstract
Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's fiction engages with Indian mythic traditions not as static retellings but as dynamic conduits of cultural memory that resonate within contemporary life. Through texts such as The Palace of Illusions and The Forest of Enchantments, Divakaruni reconstructs ancient epics from marginalized perspectives, bridging past and present and enabling culturally rooted narratives to speak to modern experiences of identity, gender, and diaspora. This paper argues that her deployment of mythic resonances functions as a form of cultural remembrance that reorients traditional narratives toward contemporary ethical and psychosocial concerns. By reinterpreting mythological motifs, she not only preserves cultural heritage but also transforms it into a dynamic medium through which marginalized voices—particularly those of women—can be expressed and redefined.The paper argues that Divakaruni's narrative strategy bridges past and present, allowing myth to function as a living repository of cultural memory rather than a static relic. Through close readings of select texts, the study highlights how mythic elements serve as tools for negotiating hybridity, intergenerational conflict, and the tensions between tradition and modernity. Ultimately, this research demonstrates that Divakaruni's fiction revitalizes myth as a means of cultural continuity and creative resistance, offering readers a nuanced understanding of how memory and storytelling shape both individual and collective identities in a globalized world.

Keywords: *Myth, Cultural Memory,Feminism, Identity, Diaspora*