



The Reality Of Myths

Dr Devdutt Pattanaik - Author,
Mythologist, Leadership
Coach, Consultant on Culture
and Belief Issues

If any one person in the recent years has inspired India and the world to take another look at the lessons from Indian mythology, Dr Devdutt Pattanaik would be among the top contenders for the position.

A medical doctor by education, a leadership consultant by profession, and a mythologist by passion, his hobby of exploring sacred stories, symbols and rituals caught the attention of the world and has made him a renowned speaker and leadership coach. Devdutt has written over 30 books and 500 articles on mythology and its relevance to modern times. His TV show Business Sutra and TED talk introduced the world to the idea of 'my truth and your truth' to bring greater sense to the world of business.

Speaking about his switch from medicine to mythology, Devdutt realised while studying myths as a hobby that mythology provided a framework to solve many of the problems faced by management. While western management principles are based on western mythology, the realisation that this may not work in all cultures has dawned on modern management gurus.

Devdutt says he only draws attention to the current frameworks and expands the mind to newer ways

of looking at the same thing, the Indian way of looking at things which is more 'gaze-oriented' than 'goal-oriented', which is more people driven than process driven.

"We are looking at all our myths with a Western lens. The essence of Indian aesthetics (Rasa Shastra) is not necessarily to be true to the characters, but to get the characters to provoke thoughts in the reader," says the renowned mythologist.

Visiting Singapore in August 2015 as a speaker at Samarpana - the Asian Festival of Classical Dance, Devdutt will be expounding on a topic that should resound with every person who has ever tapped their foot to a beat or swayed in time to music!

The nymphs dance in Indra's court, as does Vishnu taking a woman's form, and Shiva in serene isolation. Different ways of dancing, different reasons for dancing, different philosophies underlying dancing, where the body turns into a canvas through which the ancient sages of India spoke directly to the heart of people - Dr Devdutt Pattanaik explores these and more in his insightful and riveting talk, 'Why do we dance- As Menaka, Mohini or Mahesh?' in an hour-long session to be held on August 22 and sure to attract the legions of fan this erudite author has won.

Festival organiser Gayatri Sriram, Managing Director of Shruti-Laya Dance Pte Ltd. is extremely excited about hosting Devdutt Pattanaik at the festival. "We all love to dance but have we ever thought about why we dance, what are our motivations? As a dancer, I am eager to learn more about the whys, and not just the hows and the whens."

India Se is all set for an intellectually stimulating Saturday morning, at a thinking person's festival! 📖

Dr Devdutt Pattanaik speaks on Saturday August 22, 10am at Esplanade recital Studio Tickets (\$25) from SISTIC. More information on www.samarpanafestival.net 📖

