

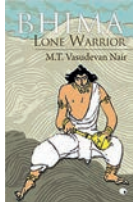


Amish is a best-selling novelist known for the *Shiva Trilogy* and his new novel *The Scion of Ikshvaku*. He is based out of Mumbai.

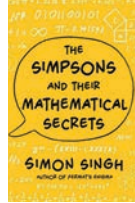
AUTHOR'S PICK



● **Pakistan or the Partition of India by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**
I love this book for its intellectual depth and the quality of research.



● **Bhima by M.T. Vasudevan Nair**
It is *Mahabharata* from Bhima's point of view. Very interesting to read a story you already know from a different perspective.



● **The Simpsons And Their Mathematical Secrets by Simon Singh**
I like this book as the episodes have mathematical theories hidden in the writings.



● **Who Were The Shudras? By Dr. B.R. Ambedkar**
This book is one of my favourites due to the fantastic analysis and arguments given by Dr. Ambedkar on the Shudras and their history.



● **Flood Of Fire by Amitav Ghosh**
I loved the first two parts of the Ibis Trilogy and am enjoying the concluding part.



What draws you to mythology?

You can say it is a good fortune of birth, as my grandfather was a *purohit* and I grew up listening to these stories and they became deeply engrained in my life.

While we live in the 21st century, your books on mythology have many takers. What is the secret?

Honestly, there were many publishers who rejected my writing in the beginning, saying books on religion would not have many takers, especially among the younger generation who make up the bulk of readers. I don't really have an answer to this question and it is for others to say as to why the books are doing so well and why they have caught the imagination of readers.

How has travel inspired your writing?

I love travelling. My wife and I used to backpack a lot. But now, as we have a six-year-old kid, we like to travel in comfort. I have grown by meeting new people and going to new places. By travelling for more than two decades, I suppose I have gained a lot of knowledge.

One place you keep returning to?

I love Goa. It is a beautiful place and also maybe because it's close to where I live.

Last vacation

We went to Kenya. My son being an animal lover, I remember this safari we took. A female cheetah climbed on the front of the jeep. It was a scary experience. But my wife asked me to remain calm

and, after a few moments, I realised that the animal meant no harm and had just climbed on the jeep, as it was the only thing nearby from where she could scout the area. I even made a video of it and have uploaded it in my social networking profiles.

Must-take while travelling

A guide book, mobile phones, the local currency isn't a bad idea to carry (laughs), and family. I do not like travelling without my family.

Favourite cuisine

I love homemade food. Hailing from Uttar Pradesh, I love the local cuisine of the region. And my wife is from Gujarat, so after marriage I developed a taste for Gujarati cuisine.

—As told to Anuj Sarma