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A shero Sita's war strategy in Amish Tripathi's Sita

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Abstract

Thanks to women characters, Indian mythology is much more fascinating than anyone can imagine. A modern mythical novel spearhead Amish Tripathi has taken a giant leap to project the real power of mythological women to the world through his novels. He has enabled them to be the real sheroes. A shero is defined as a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a heroine. One such shero in his novels is Sita who is personified as the embodiment of power and wisdom. A

mythical novel without a war is just a novel. The participation of a lady boss in the war makes the novel not only breathtaking but also thought provoking. Being the Prime Minister of Mithila, Sita had a big role to beat the prodigious Raavan to save her nation from annihilation. Her way of overcoming the obstacles, war tactics and fighting spirit really dumbfound the readers. This paper is an attempt to analyse how Sita's war strategy turns her into a war heroine.

Keywords: empower, mythology, prowess, re-erect, shero, strategy

Introduction

Gone are the days, when women in India remained indoors unless permitted to go out with an escort. Conditions today have changed, because of all those women who have fought for their freedom and set a very good example for others. The Indian authors of modern era have taken colossal endeavor to display the real power of women, though realized earlier. Author Amish is one among them who has re-created Indian Mythology and Mythical characters keeping in mind that whenever dharma is in decline, or there is an upsurge of adharm; the sacred feminine will incarnate.

Because of a matter of great personal and social importance, the war generals must do their duty, exemplifying courage, honor, and fearsome prowess against all odds and even at the cost of their life in war irrespective of gender.

A shero is defined as a woman admired or idealized for her courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities; a heroine. Originally, a shero could be any woman who was defined by another as a hero and the term first came to fruition in 1836 during the suffrage movement.

Active warfare throughout history has mainly been a matter for men, but women have also played a role, often a leading one. While women rulers conducting warfare was common, women who participated in active warfare were very rare. Having chiseled Sita as an incarnation who possibly will be the next Vishnu, Amish portrayed her a war shero. This paper exhumes the war strategies of Sita.

Sita's War Strategies

Though Amish Tripathi's Sita has very many chances to prove her mettle, she has only one possibility to combat with Raavan that is too, to save the lives of the people of Mithila and to save their country from annihilation. The strategy of a war general which comprises planning, preparing and proceeding, decide the destiny of that nation. Being a war shero by nature, Sita possesses the traits of self-trust, quick and accurate decision making, exploiting the most of her army, knowledge about armaments, opposite army and her own army, fearlessness against obstacles and so on.

Sun Tzu, a Chinese general, military strategist, writer, and philosopher, has labeled a war general as,

The general who advances without coveting fame and retreats without fearing disgrace, whose only thought is to protect his country and do good service for his sovereign, is the jewel of the kingdom.

Planning

Determined to fight with Raavan, Sita made many calculations beforehand. When Raavan was mobilizing for an attack, Guru Vishwamitra had proposed to use the daivi astras.

Knowing the power and ferocity of the divine weapons, Sita opposed it besides it was against Lord Rudra's law. After analyzing the circumstances, she had a plan to use her own police force and the available sources. She exhibits her managerial skills here. They would be inside the fort, had double walls and also had lake surrounding city. A lower ratio of soldiers was not such a huge disadvantage with this factor thrown in. A superwoman believed in herself and her force, Sita planned to utilize Lakshman's short temper in the battle. Cleverly, Ram and Sita had abandoned efforts to secure the outer wall. Tempting Raavan and his soldiers to scale it and launch an assault on the inner wall; the Lankans would then be trapped between the two walls, which would convert into a killing field. The enlightened ruler, Sita laid her plans well ahead and cultivated her resources.

Preparation

The war preparation of Sita was not at the eleventh hour at all. Like a champion, years ago, she had well-constructed moat-lake, double walls and Bees Quarter Complex. Now, she had a chance to execute them. Undoubtedly being a visionary, first of all, Sita ordered to destroy the pontoon bridge that spanned the moat-lake. With this step, obtaining her half victory, she was marshalling her forces for an expected attack from Raavan.

Pre-cautiously, they had evacuated the Bees Quarter Complex. The police force carried their wooden shields, normally used for crowd control within Mithila. Lakshman had quickly taught them some basic maneuvers to protect themselves from the arrows. Sita believed they could. The Mithilans were behind defensive walls; double walls in fact; a war battlement innovation that had rarely been tried in other forts. Knowing when and where to fight, they were ready for the big fish to come.

Procedure

To begin the war, the conch shells resounded through the night. Swiftly, resolutely, and furiously the Lankan soldiers pushed their boats into the moat-lake and launched the assault on Mithila. And they propped giant ladders against the outer walls of Mithila to reach the inner wall. Simultaneously, expecting a shower of arrows from Raavan's archers, Sita sent messages to the police soldiers to raise shields to protect them. To her surprise, instead of arrows, the Lankans used massive spears that had brutally ripped their shields and bodies. The destruction was severe on Sita's side. Underrated the enemy Raavan and his army, Sita paid the price heavily. What strategy Sita would use against the mighty Raavan, will carve or erase her name in the History. Feeling like a cornered tigress, she breathed fire. Her presence of mind enabled her to order the soldiers to rush into the houses, which was a very clever and quick move. Though it was the most disorganized retreat, it fetched the very effective result. They were secure within a house. They escaped by a hair's breadth thanks to Sita's clever ploy.

The ability of breaking the hurdles and overcoming the threats of the general ignite the soldiers to fight more enthusiastically than ever before. The hero of the war must discover a creative solution to face the critical solution. Swiftly, Sita detected a way out to battle with the Lankans. They had an idea to use the windows of the Bees Quarter Complex which overlooked the ground between the two fort walls. Discovering the vantage point, they could easily fire arrows at the charging Lankans.

Within moments, the Lankans were caught between the outer and inner walls. They had expected no resistance. Caught off guard, the arrows shredded through their lines. The losses were heavy to the Lankans side now. The Mithilans fired arrows without respite, killing as many of the Lankans as they could. Suddenly, the conch shells sounded. The Lankans immediately turned and ran, retreating as rapidly as they had arrived. A loud cheer went up from the Mithilan quarters. They had beaten back the first attack. Sita had written her name in History, a war heroine.

Analysis

Maharishi Vishwamitra, who looked for the powerful villain for his personal reason, purposefully upset Raavan's almighty ego in Sita's swaymwar. A cold and ruthless monster, Raavan made his decisions based on hard calculations. With his ten thousand body guards, he could wreak havoc on Mithila. Waiting for this exact moment, Vishwamitra had a plan to pin down Ram to use daivi astras and could easily chase him away from being the next Vishnu so he insisted to use the daivi astras in the battle.

- The knowledge about the divine weapons and the authorization required to use them made Sita to oppose Guruji's plan. It not only showed her awareness about the weaponry but also concern even to the enemies. Good generals never look for victory alone, peace is their focal point. Sita knew very well that the crooked and short cut ways in the battle would not fetch fame but shame. Sticking to her beliefs and values when the pressure gets high are the attributes that made, Sita a real shero.
- When Vishwamitra showed disrespect to Sita's namby-pamby intellectuals and weak police force, however they were not trained or equipped to fight the troops of Raavan, she had strong faith in herself and her people. The relationship and the trust she had with them are the most important ones of all and set the tone for them to be the best version of themselves.
- Keeping in mind the strengths and weaknesses, Sita calculated and put forth her awesome planning to make use of the accessible resources the optimum. Satisfied with her plan, enriched by her confidence level she also had a view of how Raavan's body guard platoons would reach their fort. In Raavan's point of view, she visualised the war proceedings. As a consequence, she immediately collapsed the tunnel. Sita projected her planning and mind calculations here.
- At the last moment she requested Lakshman to train the police force how to protect them with the wooden shields. She knew what to do and what not to do. Allowing the Lankan soldiers to caliber the outer walls and trapping them inside the double walls, she has proved again war is not based on brutal strength but mind game.
- After the massacre, Sita analysed the situation very ingeniously and hurriedly. Like a mother Goddess she safe guarded the remaining fellow men into the houses from the Lankan's dangerous deadly spears. The awareness of when to work hard and when to rest without apologies shows signs of Sita's wisdom.
- Even at the verge of defeat, losing one fourth of her total police force, never giving up is the heroic attitude of Sita. She substantiated that a cornered animal fights back ferociously. Regardless of her age, no obstacles

frightened her to accomplish her goals. Her instincts showed her the vantage point to use the windows of the Bees Quarter Complex. The strategies of; ruthless behaviour towards the evil ones, the attitude of leading from the front and creativity of Sita beget her the triumph within no time.

Conclusion

In Hindu mythology, in order to uphold the righteousness that brought prosperity to humanity over wickedness, the major Hindu Gods, including Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva, often engage in war, either in the form of Avatars or in their true form. Similar to that, with the intention of rescuing the people of Mithila, Amish Tripathi's Sita had to fight with the mighty Raavan who pursued war with wicked wishes and domination. Having remembered her mother Sunaina's words, *when logic fails, faith can serve a purpose*, Sita sketched her war strategy which included persistence, problem solving, determination, smarts, visionary, energy and hustle. She rocked her skills and was never afraid to shine. Due to her supporting nature, possessing strong character and sense of self, we commemorate Sita a war shero. Undoubtedly, her vision and strategy support, encourage and push every one of us to be better and are champions for the greater cause. Anyone at any age and from any culture or background can be a hero/shero.

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