

The Indian **EXPRESS** Myths Retold

PHOTO: MANDEEP DHIR



Kamla K Kapur's book reintroduces Indian Mythology to the West

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PROMISES are stepping stones in the path of dharma..." Without peace there is no truth..." These are just few of the memorable words penned in her new book by poet, educator, playwright and novelist Kamla K Kapur. Kapur's first book in prose, 'Ganesha Goes to lunch: Classics From Mystic India' "retells and recreates" Indian mythological tales. The short stories from Ramayana, Mahabharata, of Ganesha and Kuber among others are spread in six sections of the book with an introduction of the main characters in each part.

"Mythology and religion have always inspired me because they beautifully help humankind evolve. Moreover, myths are transcultural so everybody relates to them with fascination. They make gods appear so real yet godly," Kapur adds that a lot of research has gone into bringing together this book. These stories were told verbally to Kapur by friends and she even read a lot of mythology. "Most of these stories have not found a place in the historical texts but travelled

in time orally. They have also not been developed in the manner that I have followed," she reels announcing that the proceeds of the sale of the book will be donated Dr. Frederick Shaw's NGO- Developing Indigenous Resources-India.

Illustrated, simple words, interactive style, messages on life in the modern context and familiar characters are what this book offers. Reading out her stories "The bird who fought the war" and "The toad who did not croak", Kapur points out that she likes to pick animals as significant characters in her stories. "We share the Earth with these tiny and large creatures, yet we don't respect their existence. We fail to recognize them as living beings having consciousness. I want to highlight this through my work," she says.

Releasing the book, Ramgopal Bajaj, eminent theatre artist says, "Kapur's works always show great sensitivity towards life. This book brings out the same characteristic." He also read out the Hindi translation of Kapur's poem 'Green' from her previous book 'As a Fountain in a Garden'. Published by Mandala Publications, the book promises to bring out the modern mystic India through ancient wisdom. "Everybody who is imaginative will enjoy the book." smiles Kapur.

Ready for some time travel?

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