



# Mingling Of Myths And Tradition In The Works Of Githahariharan

**Dr. Devender Singh**

**Assistant Professor (English)**

**Department of LHC, COBS&H**

**CCSHAU HISAR**

**Aayushi**

**PhD Scholar**

**Department of English  
and European Languages,  
Banasthali Vidyapith,  
Banasthali, Jaipur**

## Abstract

The distinguished Commonwealth Writer Githa Hariharan was born in Coimbatore in 1954. She was raised in Manila and Bombay. In the United States, she earned her B.A. in English from Bombay University and her M.A. in Communications from Fairfield University in Connecticut. Returning to India, she worked for the Public Broadcasting System in New York. Before writing full-time, she worked as an editor at Bombay, Chennai, and New Delhi publishing houses. Her creations showed how myth, tradition, imagination, and fable have been reinterpreted. Githa Hariharan has significantly contributed to Indian English literature since authorizing several novels and short tales.

## *Thousand Faces of Night:*

The *Thousand Faces of Night*, Githa Hariharan's first book, was released in 1992. In 1993 this book took home the Commonwealth Writer's Prize for Best First Book. Spanish, French, and German translations are available for this book. It depicted the journey of a modern woman via her experiences and relationships, offering an open assessment of the identities of modern Indian women who were troubled by ideas of tradition, religion, and caste. Through the tales of Devi, Sita, and Mayamma, she showed that a woman must face her destiny alone. She vividly depicted the hidden world of Indian women's existence, along with their goals and aspirations.

### ***When Dreams Travel:***

Another book by GitahaHariharan, *When Dreams Travel* (1999), was exquisitely written including multi-voiced story with mystic elements. The work was written in modern language and based on the classic Shahrzad story. The quest for power and love has the subject of the book's theme of enduring yearning and an age-old game that has never finished. Confident people didn't have much of either, including men and women with little power but little love. While the male considered strong and afraid, the storyteller utilized her words and sexuality to rescue her life. Two men and two ladies were there as the curtain opened. The Sultan preferred a virgin every night, and the Sultan's brother despised the dark. They also have two ambitious brides who wanted to become heroines: Shahrzad and Duniyazad. The book used evocative language for depicting the mutability of stories while blending the past and present.

### ***In Times of Siege:***

The finest book released in 2003 by GithaHariharan as acknowledged *In Times of Siege*. It concerned Prof. Shivmurthy, a history professor at Delhi University, whose works about Basava (the reformist poet) were criticized by watchdog organizations. The book's protagonist was Shivmurthy, a middle-aged history professor at New Delhi University who upheld Basava's principles. Basava was a Kannada saint poet and social reformer in the twelfth century. He resisted the caste system and was a brilliant administrator as well. Itihas Suraksha Manch criticized Prof. Shivmurthy's publications because they were unsuitable and offensive to Hinduism and Hindu Saints. His career was also in danger from Hindu fundamentalists who claimed that the famous rebel poet Basava was not a deity. The university administration gave him three options: recant the offensive words, apologize, or quit. But he was unable to abide by any of these requirements. He recognized his inner fortitude and started to defend himself. He had to fight his demons and past to decide his future course. He was a middle-class individual who respected others despite their belief in their uniqueness.

### **Activism :**

Hariharan challenged the Hindu Minority and Guardianship Act in 1995 with the help of Indira Jaising and the Lawyers Collective because it violated the right to equality guaranteed by Articles 14 and 15 of the Indian Constitution and designated a mother as the child's natural guardian "after" the father. The Supreme Court of India ruled that both the mother and the father might serve as the child's natural guardians in the case of Hariharan, in which the mother and father were both petitioners. The ruling preserved the rights of children. The Supreme Court stated in its decision on guardianship that "[the father] cannot be ascribed to have a preferential right over the mother."

### **Influences on Githa Hariharan's writings :**

Githa Hariharan enjoyed interacting with written words. She had always read voraciously. She created poems as a teenager to develop some discipline and practice employing imagery patterns. It served as the foundation for her subsequent novels and short story collections. While pursuing her B.A. in Bombay, she was fortunate to have exceptional instructors. Her instructors were friendly; they encouraged her, let her borrow books from beyond the curriculum, and pushed her to write creatively. She was still able to recall her one outstanding instructor, Nita Pillai. Later, while working in publishing, she started writing short stories. She also acknowledged for having children and caring for women authors. Still, in her case, she began writing really on *The Thousand Faces of Night*, which won the Commonwealth Writer's Prize, when she became pregnant and went on maternity leave.

### **Githa Hariharan's concern with Genre:**

Githa Hariharan has significant reservations about the fiction subgenre. Despite being a feminist, she identified primarily as a humanist and several other things. She has been acknowledged in an interview:

I'd want to be quite clear that in my

What I believe has guided my decisions in life as a feminist decision

Githa Hariharan advised Indian ladies the key to a successful marriage.

Through her book *When Dreams Travel*, she encouraged Indian women to resist injustices.

She lamented our culture's self-destructive and polarizing tendencies today when extremism, intolerance, and mistrust have gripped India. She was sad about the casteism in academia, as Itihas Suraksha Manch criticizes Prof. Shivmurthy for adopting the values of Basva (a Kannada poet and social reformer). She worried that perceptions of history, countries, and patriotism were dwindling with time and that biases are expressed in many tongues while conveying the same concept. Githa Hariharan's collection of short tales, *Sorry Best Friend*, revealed her love and humanistic care for children. She has loving eyes that are steady and clear when she looked at India and our kids. She was making a fantastic effort to teach kids about and teach them to abide by basic life concepts.

### **References:**

- *The thousand faces of night*. Penguin Books India, 1992.
- Hariharan, Githa. *Almost home: Finding a place in the world from Kashmir to New York*. Simon and Schuster, 2016.
- Hariharan, Githa. *In Times of Siege: A Novel*. Vintage, 2007.
- Hariharan, Githa. *When Dreams Travel*. Penguin Books India, 1998.