

Farah Oomerbhoy's *The Last Of The Foredrakes* as a Mythic Fantasy Fiction

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Mythology is the greatest inspiration for fantasy stories. Mythic fantasy is rooted in myth, legend, and folklore and fairy tales. It frequently uses mythological personages. Fantasy is a form of a fiction. The notable different between fantasy fiction and other types of fiction, like science fiction, is that fantasy generally involves a mystical base, i.e. magical mythical or supernatural, imaginary worlds, while science fiction makes use of an analytical, scientific discourse. Science fiction describes the world as it may become one day, while fantasy explains it as the possible ideal world.

Mythic fantasy fiction heroes are different from other types of fiction heroes. They are usually mythical creatures or humans with supernatural powers; they are humans with special talents which make them special leader, efficient problem solvers or formidable risk takers which help them succeed in the end of the story. This type of fiction involves a 'good versus evil' conflict, solved optimistically in the end by the help of magic or witchcraft or other talents of magical world. This fantasy appeals to universal myths. So that everyone can understand the story without a cultural or historical background. It gives a kind of resolution, providing the possibilities for a new better world.

India has a vast reservoir of mythology. India is closely interwoven with mythology. Indian mythology is one of the richest elements of Indian culture that makes India a unique one in the world. Through generations, different stories in Indian mythology have been passed from generation to generation either by a word of mouth or through carefully stored scriptures. While reading a book it will be identified that they are picked from actual stories that heard in childhood. The story will be about an encounter with faith. This is called as fantasy fiction. It is

subject to so many interpretations. That is why even today many writers show interest in writing mythic fantasy fiction.

The debut Indian writer Farah Oomerbhoy tries this fantasy genre in her The Avalonia Chronicles series which children like the most and one of the best-selling books. She consciously or unconsciously uses mythology which proves that fantasy and mythology cannot be separated. Her usage of names to her characters of the fiction reminds the mythical characters.

Names are the key to people's identity. Names play a key role in differentiation. Some names have the ability to express character traits or personal appearance, but they can also insinuate to places, profession or accidental circumstances, which were connected with the particular individuals. Later many of these descriptive names became surnames. The naming of fictional character is subjected to similar practices. In order to serve determining, expressive and distinctive functions, the characters' names must display relative features of their intended role of significance.

Aurora

Aurora is the roman name for the goddess of the dawn. Her mythology and attributes are the same as the Greek Eos, and she does not seem to have any specifically roman mythology. Her name simply means "the dawn, day break, or sunrise".

Aurora is a brave girl who fought against her Aunt Morgana in order save her own life. Firstly, she does not seem to have any power. But soon she finds out her own identity and developed her fae-mage powers in Evolon, the academy of magic. Like the meaning of her name in mythology, she emerges as the dawn of the sun by removing all the darkness in her life.

Raphael

Raphael is a powerful guardian angel and healer. He is said to look after the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden. He is associated with the sun and is often depicted holding a staff.

Raphael (Rafe) is a handsome hero who helps the innocent people. He is originally a prince, but he disguises as an ordinary man who wears mask and usually called as "Black Wolf" by the people. Usually he is good to good people and bad to bad people. Like his name in mythology, he is a powerful guardian to all, especially Aurora. Because whenever Aurora is in trouble, he rescues her life as his own responsibility. Only in the final stage of the book, we came to know that he is the prince.

Fae

The fae or fairies are supernatural beings that can be best described by that Greek word – daemon, which means “spirit”. These are spirits or minor deities of nature or of the natural phenomena.

Fairies or the fae are the magical creatures who help people. They are very good in nature. Usually they are born with the fae power with one of the five elements- Fire, Air, Water, Earth and Spirit. They are popular of their healing power. They are all trustworthy creatures in the entire Avalonia kingdom.

Pegasus

Pegasus, the winged horse in Greek mythology, was involved in some of the most intriguing tales of the times. From his birth to his death, Pegasus remained a mysterious creature capable of everything, symbolizing the divine inspiration or the journey to heaven, since riding him was synonymous to “flying” to the heavens. Pegasus was represented as a good hearted, gentle creature, somewhat naïve but always eager to help. For his service and loyalty, Zeus, king of gods in Greek Mythology, honored him with a special immortality turning Pegasus into a constellation on the last day of his life.

Pegasus a mysterious creature that has wings along with body of a horse usually flies into the sky. These are loyal creatures and a magical one that feels the power only to the royal fae bloodline and communicates through mind. Their voices can be heard only to the royal fae people. It helped Princess Aurora timely and saved her life.

After studying of Farah Oomerbhoy’s book from the mythological side, it can be clearly understood that she has mostly used characters from Greek mythology. She has created her characters on the base of mythology and gave them some extra personalities. Mostly she has tried to soften their behavior and to represent metaphorical and allegorical expressions of reality.

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