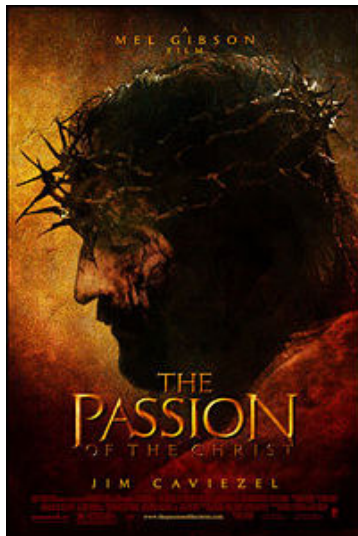


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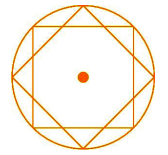
# Mythology in Films



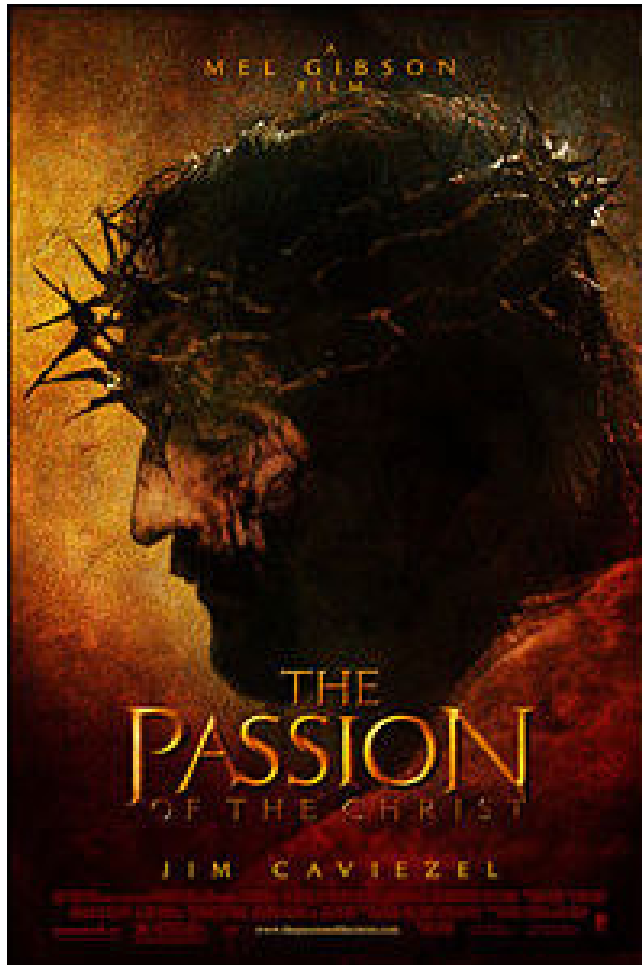
Dr. Devdutt Pattanaik  
[www.devdutt.com](http://www.devdutt.com)



# The Passion of The Christ

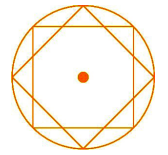


[www.devduitt.com](http://www.devduitt.com)

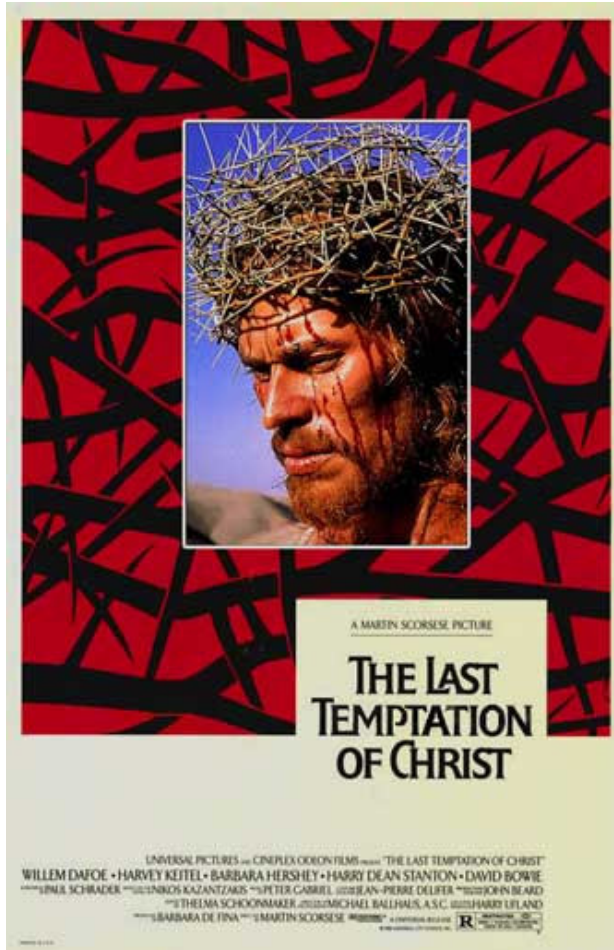


- 2004
- Mel Gibson
- Blockbuster
- Criticism
  - Anti-semitic
  - Homophobic
- Historical accuracy
  - Aramaic
  - Hebrew
  - Latin
- Show Resurrection

# Last Temptation of Christ

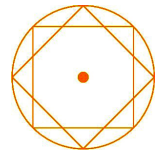


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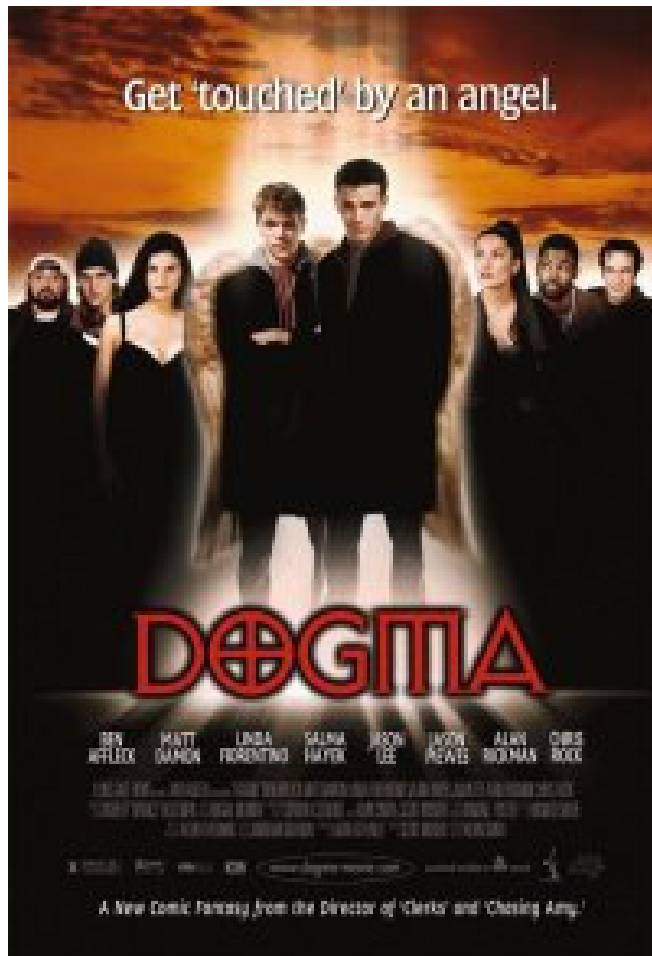


- 1988
- Martin Scorsese
- Controversial
- Banned in many countries
- Non-Gospel Ideas
  - Marriage to Mary Magdalene, Mary and Martha
  - Naked on the Cross
  - Jesus full of guilt

# Dogma



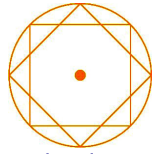
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- 1999
- Kevin Smith
- Controversial
- Disney sold away rights to Lions Gate Entertainment



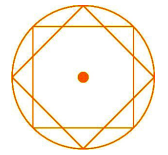
# What is mythology?



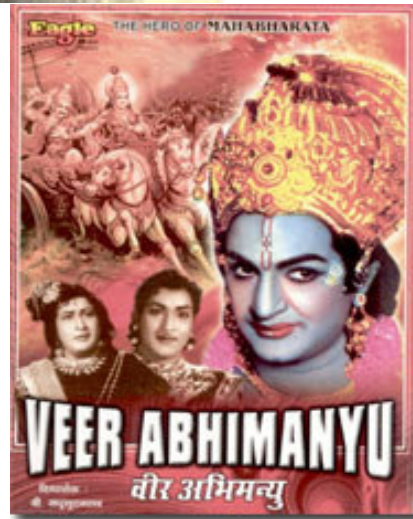
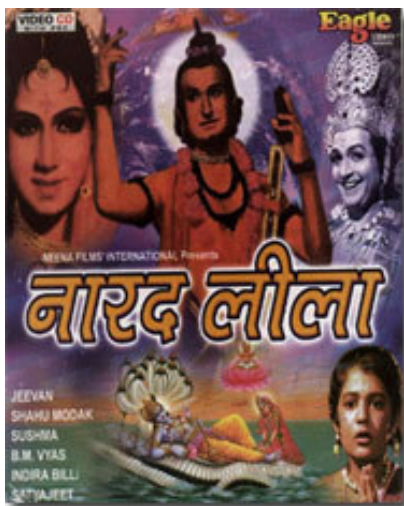
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1. **Subjective** truth of a people revealed through stories
  - The way they see THEIR world
2. **Sacredness** ensures flawless transmission
3. **Believers** insist it is real, scientific and historical, evidence notwithstanding

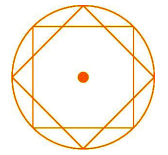
# Since 'Raja Harischandra'...



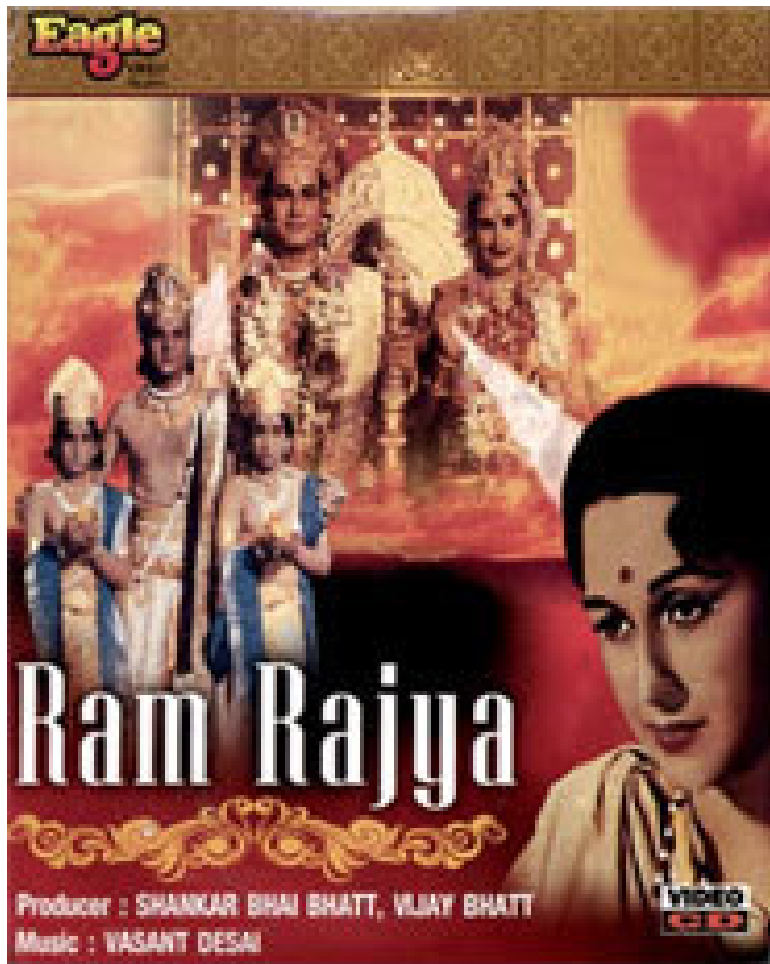
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# Ram Rajya

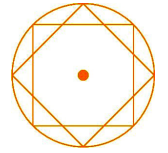


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- 1943
- Vijay Bhatt
- Most successful mythological film
- Starring
  - Shobhana Samarth
- Plot
  - The abandonment of Sita by Ram following street gossip
- Only film to be seen by Mahatma Gandhiji

# Jai Santoshi Maa



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- 1975
- Vijay Sharma
- Film for housewives in 'angry young man' era (Sholay, Deewar)
- Blockbuster
- “Created” a goddess in the popular faith
- No controversy
  - Ganesha has wives
  - Ganesha has a sister
  - Goddess is a village goddess in Gujarat
- Remake in 2006 was a flop 8

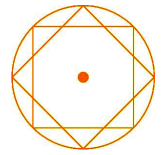
# Differences



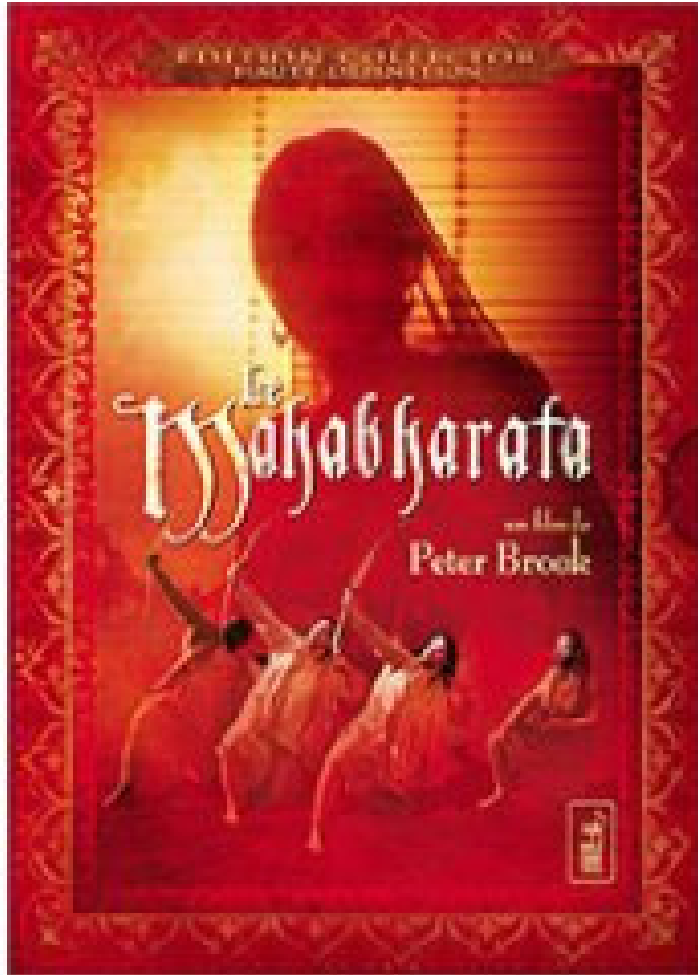
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- **Biblical Mythology**
  1. Consciously portrayed as historical
  2. Not promoted through folk and classical theatre
  3. Humor was frowned upon
    - **Name of the Rose** starring Sean Connery
  4. Firm plots
- **Hindu Mythology**
  1. Consciously portrayed as fantasy
  2. Widely promoted through folk and classical theatre
    - Chakyar in Kerala
    - Nautanki in UP
  3. Comical and petty gods
  4. Fluid Plots

# Le Mahabharata

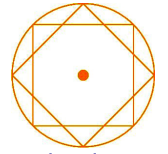


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- 1985
- Play
- Peter Brook
- Not appreciated in India
  - Black man as Bhisma
  - White man as Krishna
  - Oriental man as Shiva
  - Style lacked sophistication

# Lord of Rings

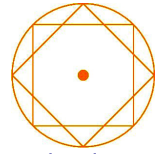


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- Fiction based on Viking mythology
- Rekindles interest in Indian mythology
- Even historical (?) 'Jodha Akbar' influenced by battle scenes

# Naksha

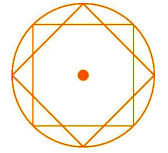


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- 2006
- Plot
  - Search for Karna's lost armor
- Attempting to reach out to modern audience
  - Rambo and Indiana Jones meets Indian mythology
- Flop
- Bad idea or bad execution?

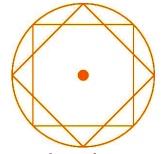
# Categorical errors of Copying



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- Hindu mythology does not have notion of
  - Evil, Prophecy, Doomsday, Linear time
- Hindu mythology is based on
  - Karma, Cyclical time, Boons and Curses
- Hindu mythology is based on ‘emotion’, not ‘action’

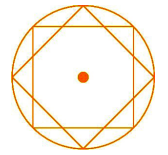
# Future Trends



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- Discomfort with 'Nautanki' Mythological
  - Not cool
  - Ok for television
- Fear of Protests
  - Culture of 'outrage'
- Can we turn plays into Multiplex Films?

# Thank you




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- Do visit [www.devdudd.com](http://www.devdudd.com) for articles on mythology

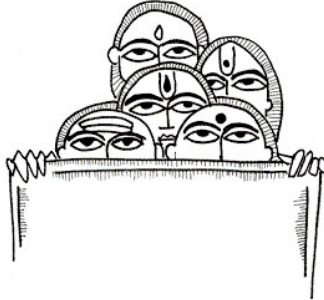
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“...the Chinese have no word for **God**  
...the Hindus no word for **Evil**  
...the Greeks had no **Satan**  
...so much for the **universality**  
of these concepts...”



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on myths and mythological characters, by Devdutt

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