

WOULD SOMRAS HAVE HELPED CURE COVID-19? A DISSECTION OF AMISH TRIPATHI'S THE IMMORTALS OF MELUHA

R. Manikandan ^{1*}, Dr. M.R. Bindu ^{2*}

¹Assistant Professor of English & Research Scholar, Veltech Rangarajan Dr.Sagunthala R&D Institute Of Science & Technology, Outer Ring Road, Avadi, Chennai- 600062

²Professor & Head, Department of English, Veltech Rangarajan Dr.Sagunthala R&D Institute Of Science & Technology, Outer Ring Road, Avadi, Chennai- 600062

Abstract

Coronavirus disease—widely known as Covid-19—is a lethal illness caused by Coronavirus whose first case was found in China in December 2019. The disease has shaken the world from its roots and everybody—from politicians, media persons, celebrities to street vendors, farmers, and my neighborhood daily wage workers (Doctors have been deliberately avoided because they talk about it the least, at least not in public places)—faced problems, but interestingly when they had the chance to opine about it they had their say. There are a lot of overlaps and the same amount of difference of opinions. One of the common talking points: Coronavirus Vaccine — when will medical researchers find it out? And there are numerous announcements from various countries—India is also part of it. Amish Tripathi is an Indian author writing in English. He has written six novels. In his novel *The Immortals of Meluha*, he uses Somras—a divine drink that cures all kinds of illness. This article is a dissection of the fictional medicine used in the novel to discover if it can be used to cure Coronavirus.

Key Words: Covid-19, Medicine, Oxidants, Somras, Vaccine. Introduction

John Donne, the seventeenth-century English poet, wrote in his death bed ‘No man is an island, every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main’. And what the poet truly meant while writing the sermon is up to literary critics’ and research scholars’ interpretation but the phrases are completely relevant to the Coronavirus crisis. Because the virus is fast-spreading, and much more contagious than the average seasonal viruses, and according to World Health Organization, people—irrespective of their age—can be severely affected and die. Every man knows that no man is safe on this planet earth; leave alone the concept of an Island. This makes Coronavirus disease a life-threatening social disease and the scientists’ effort to find vaccine is still under process.

Somras — a Divine Drink mentioned in the Vedas as a ‘drink that produces

immortality'. According to The Vedas, Somras is not extracted from a single plant—it is a mixture of certain sacred plants and water particularly that of the Himalayan Rivers.

Indian novelist Amish Tripathi has used Somras in his Shiva Trilogy, *The Immortals of Meluha* — "which when consumed, reacts with the oxidants, absorbs them and then expels them from the body as sweat or urine.... because of that the persons never age" (135). Amish has given detailed information about the preparation of Somras and its divine power to help cure people who are almost dead from any disease.

Discussion

The key question is; Would Somras Have Helped Cure COVID-19? To answer this question, one needs to understand the intricacies of Somras that Amish Tripathi used as medicine in his Shiva Trilogy and how Coronavirus causes illness in humans.

How Coronavirus Affects Human body

Any virus that causes illness, does so by entering our body and infecting cells before spreading to other cells. According to World Health Organization, Coronavirus mainly affects cells, particularly that of the lungs in human body. It enters human body through the eyes, nose, or mouth and takes two to fourteen days to show symptoms such as fever, a cough, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, fatigue, headache, sore throat congestion, or a runny nose and to name a few. After five to eight days, the patient has shortness of breath known as Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS), which increases heart rate. It also mars the tissues and blood vessels which makes it harder or even impossible for the patients to breathe. So, lungs release less oxygen to the blood and the organs—the major ones are kidneys, lungs, and livers—do not get enough oxygen to survive and they stop functioning resulting in patients' death.

How Somras Functions in Human Body:

In his Shiva Trilogy, *The Immortals of Meluha*, Amish Tripathi through a fictional character named Brahaspati — a scientist— elucidates the preparation of Somras "Manufacturing Somras requires various ingredients that are not easily available...the Sanjeevani tree ...water from Saraswathi River because water from other sources does not work" (136). The crushed branches of Sanjeevani trees have to be mixed with water from Saraswati River to make paste and in turn Somras powder.

In Amish Tripathi's fictional land Meluha, Somras helps people live long and strong because of the Somras—from childhood they start consuming Somras, and in large quantities. Somras does the job in the following way;

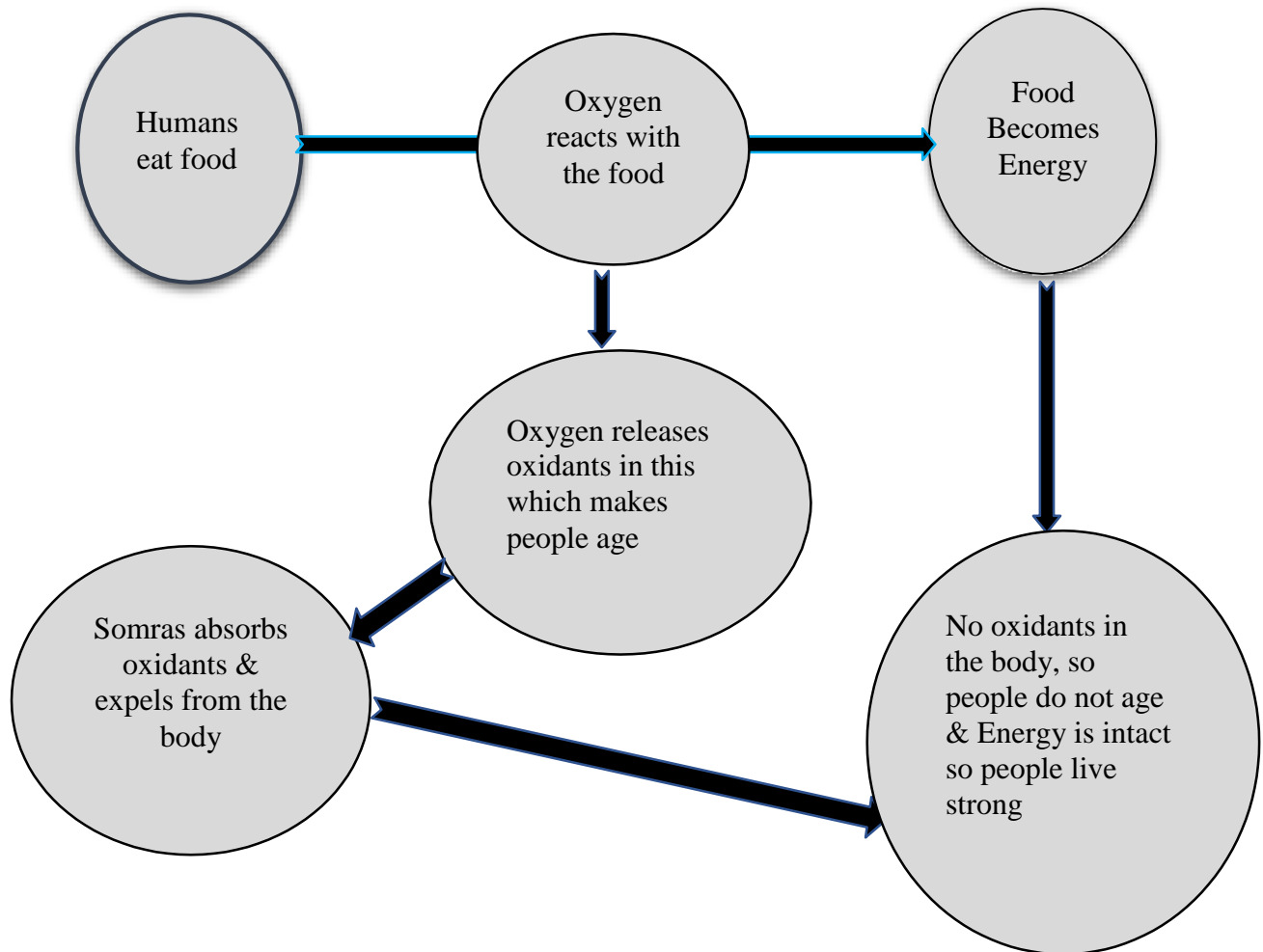


Figure 1- The function of Somras in Human body.

The paste from the live Sanjeevani tree is even more powerful and it helps to cure organ damage as it helps Parvateshwar. But the paste should be applied within the prescribed hours, otherwise, it is not fruitful. Would Somras Have Helped Cure COVID-19?

Perhaps ‘Yes’—because there are a few reasonable answers.

- In mild cases (Phase-1), Coronavirus affected patients need to improve their immune system — Somras can easily help them improve; everyone in Meluha improve their immune system, and live strong because of Somras.
- In severe cases (Phase-2), Coronavirus affected patients need breathing aides so that they do not die immediately, and might even possibly recover from the disease — Somras can react with blood cells and ease the oxygen flow to the other parts of body and postpone patients’ death—most importantly give the doctors the extra-time to help patients cure — as it does in General Parvateshwar case.

- In extremely severe cases (Phase-3) — it is known as the hyperinflammatory phase — Patients' poor immune system affect organs and stop their function. During the patients' body attacks its own cells — Somras from fresh Sanjeevani trees within the prescribed time can help cure organ failure though the process not clearly mentioned in the book — Parvateshwar recovers from death-bed because of Somras.

Conclusion

Covid-19 cases does seem to be stopping anytime soon and people are already afraid of second wave Coronavirus — more so of the lockdown it might impose. Scientists are desperately trying to find vaccine — there is a healthy competition among countries to become the first in finding a vaccine and record it's in history. WHO's answer to the question 'Is there a vaccine for Covid-19?' is 'Not yet'. This is the time people desperately expect miracles to happen — and they would be enormously delighted if the Somras is really available now. Countries would pay in billions to Brahaspati produce Somras in large. Mount Mandar would have become the most famous city in the world, eventually attained divine status. The emperor Daksha's dream to make Meluha the capital of world would have become true. Coronavirus would not have been this much threatening and the world would have escaped the lockdown.

All these, and much more. Only if Amish Tripathi's Meluha and Somras really existed.

References

- [1] Tripathi, Amish. *The Immortals of Meluha*. Chennai: Westland ltd, 2010.
- [2] ---. *The Secret of Nagas*, Chennai: Westland ltd, 2012.
- [3] <https://qz.com/716088/john-donnes-solemn-400-year-old-poem-against-isolationism-is-resonating-with-brits-today/>
- [4] <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/question-and-answers-hub>
- [5] <https://www.webmd.com/lung/coronavirus-covid-19-affects-body#2>
- [6] <https://www.somaa.org/resources-1>