

'Mahabharata influenced by Greek, Scandinavian, Celtic heritages'

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Come Carpentier, a French expert, who spoke on the 'Historical importance of Mahabharata', on Sunday at the Mahabharata Festival, believes that the Indian heritage has association with the mother heritage which can be termed as the Indo-European heritage which carried all the influences of the Greek heritage, the Scandinavian heritage and the Celtic heritage.

The Mahabharata Festival is being organised by the Tourism Department in association with the Draupadi Dream Trust.

Carpentier, who has recently released his book on his Indian travels, while talking to 'The Pioneer' said that he saw the same common images and concepts in all the heritage epics.

Carpentier, who came to India in the year 1975 when he was a young boy, said that he had always been fascinated by the Indian heritage and philosophy.

Currently based in Delhi, he said that he had read stories from the Mahabharata as a young boy. The expert admits that he has not made any claim to be a scholar. "I know Sanskrit and have studied the Mahabharata but I do not claim to be an expert. I think that such epics should be seen in also from out of the box in which a scholar looks at it," he said. Carpentier said that this inference that there is common heritage has been supported by other scholars too.

"Generally people are not ready to believe that there was a common heritage but I believe that the people may have migrated from the north-western parts of India to the European countries and spread their culture there. There was some original home for all these cultures which cannot be identified in terms of boundaries. Most scholar dismiss this because they believe that people could not have travelled so far in the past," he said.

Elaborating upon this, he said, "One can see this in the

manner in which the war heroes belonging to the European heritage speak." The scholar who knows Sanskrit and has read parts of the Mahabharata believes that it happened.

"I believe that the war did happen from the way the dynasties have been portrayed. It was an important war which could be equated to the World War II of our times. The war left an impact in the northern parts of the country," he said. He says

that out of the two epics he finds Mahabharata more relatable and political.

Asked to make a comparison between the Indian and the French heritage, the expert said that the Indian heritage was very old in comparison to the French heritage. "The Indian heritage is several years old in comparison to the French heritage which is very young," he added.

Meanwhile the Mahabharata Exhibition in the evening saw the performance of Sharon Lowne's Andhya Yug 'Gandhari'.



Panchal : Nishi Pandey, Dr. Rakesh Chandra, Mr. Come Carpentre, Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharya

