Resource 1.4

**Transcript for Devdutt Pattanaik’s**

**“East vs. West -- the myths that mystify” (from Ted Talks – www.ted.com/talks)**

1 To understand the business of mythology and what a Chief Belief Officer is supposed to do, you

2 have to hear a story of Ganesha, the elephant-headed god who is the scribe of storytellers, and

3 his brother, the athletic warlord of the gods, Kartikeya. The two brothers one day decided to go

4 on a race, three times around the world. Kartikeya leapt on his peacock and flew around the

5 continents and the mountains and the oceans. He went around once, he went around twice, he

6 went around thrice. But his brother, Ganesha, simply walked around his parents once, twice,

7 thrice, and said, "I won." "How come?" said Kartikeya. And Ganesha said, "You went around

8 'the world.' I went around 'my world.'" What matters more?

9 If you understand the difference between “the world” and “my world,” you understand the

10 difference between logos(1) and mythos(2) “The world” is objective, logical, universal, factual,

11 scientific. “My world” is subjective. It's emotional. It's personal. It’s perceptions, thoughts,

12 feelings, dreams. It is the belief system that we carry. It's the myth that we live in.

13 “The world” tells us how the world functions, how the sun rises, how we are born. “My world”

14 tells us why the sun rises, why we were born. Every culture is trying to understand itself: "Why

15 do we exist?" And every culture comes up with its own understanding of life, its own customized

16 version of mythology.

17 Culture is a reaction to nature, and this understanding of our ancestors is transmitted generation

18 from generation in the form of stories, symbols and rituals, which are always indifferent to

19 rationality. And so, when you study it, you realize that different people of the world have a

20 different understanding of the world. Different people see things differently— different

21 viewpoints.

22 There is my world and there is your world, and my world is always better than your world,

23 because my world, you see, is rational and yours is superstition. Yours is faith. Yours is illogical.

24 This is the root of the clash of civilizations…

1 Logos: the rational (logical) principle that governs and develops the universe

2 Mythos: the underlying system of beliefs, especially those dealing with supernatural forces, characteristic of a particular culture

**Text-Dependent Questions:**

1. According to Pattanaik, a myth is:
2. In trying to understand “my world,” myths help:
3. How do myths reflect cultural beliefs and values?

**Extending Understanding:**

Identify and label evidence of the criteria of a myth in the story of Ganesha and his brother Kartikeya that Devdutt Pattanaik told at the beginning of the video. Use the transcript to underline or highlight evidence of each of the criteria and label which criteria it meets. Use the criteria descriptions below to guide your work:

*Three criteria of a myth:*

1. Myths are connected to regions, traditions, or belief systems.

2. Myths answer the question “why?”

3. Myths follow patterns.

For example, Ganesha, the elephant-headed god (line 2) shows that the myth is connected both to a belief system (god) and the region’s animals (elephant)