

URUVI: RETRIEVAL OF THE UNSUNG CONQUEROR IN KAVITA KANE'S *KARNA'S WIFE 'THE OUTCAST'S QUEEN'*

R. Azhagambika

Research Scholar

Dr. P. Savithri

Assistant Professor & HOD, Department of English
Sri Meenakshi Government College for Women, Madurai

Abstract

"*Retrieval of the Unsung Conqueror: Unveiling Kavita Kane's Karna's Wife: The Outcast's Queen*" examines the importance of Kavita Kane's writing and how it centres on Uruvi, the underappreciated wife of the renowned warrior Karna from the Mahabharata. It highlights how the novel brought Uruvi's persona to life in order to provide readers a new viewpoint and a counter-narrative to the largely masculine discourse of the epic. It highlights the painstaking research and creative narrative used by Kane to illuminate Uruvi's journey and highlight her challenges, persistence, and personal development. It also underlines the overarching goal of questioning accepted gender norms, bringing up representational issues, and recovering feminine mythological narratives. Overall, it emphasises how writing can offer voices to overlooked characters.

Keywords: Indian Mythology, Mahabharata, Dominant Masculine Discourse, Marginalized Character.

Numerous legends and stories from the enormous Indian mythological canon have fascinated readers for ages. One of these is the well-known tale of the brave warrior Karna, who suffered a terrible fate, from the Mahabharata epic. The unsung heroine of her own fate, Uruvi, his wife, has an equally captivating tale that often goes unnoticed. The unknown story of Uruvi is thoroughly investigated in Kavita Kane's book *Karna's Wife*, which also emphasizes her personality and sheds light on her challenges, tenacity, and eventual success. Ancient Indian epic The Mahabharata is rife with tales and complicated characters. Karna stands out among them as an illustration of devotion, bravery, and tragic heroism. In Indian legend, his loyalty to the friend-turned-enemy Duryodhana and his ultimate defeat on the

battlefield are highly regarded. In spite of this, Uruvi, Karna's wife, is oftentimes neglected or relegated to a footnote in the middle of the grandeur of his story. Kavita Kane, a well-known novelist from India, understood the need of finding and reviving the forgotten female myths. In *Karna's Wife*, she depicts the literary expedition to solve the baffling riddle surrounding the Uruvi. By shedding light on Uruvi's thoughts, feelings, and difficulties and by offering a counternarrative to the discourse that is predominantly masculine, the book gives readers a distinctive point of view. One of the key aspects of Kavita Kane's writing is her ability to create a captivating narrative that accurately depicts Uruvi's journey. Through her meticulous research and captivating writing, Kane paints a vivid picture of Uruvi's life, starting with her early years in the Panchala kingdom, her fateful encounter with Karna, and her ultimate marriage to him against social and familial opposition. Thanks to Kane's great understanding of Uruvi's challenges, readers may be able to relate to her hardships as she navigates a world scarred by family strife, political intrigue, and the impending shadow of her husband's destiny.

Furthermore, Uruvi is shown as a complex, multifaceted figure in the novel. She is a strong female role model who confronts her own fate and finds her voice in a male-dominated society. She is also Karna's wife. Kane presents Uruvi as a strong, competent, and resourceful woman who rejects the limitations placed on her by social mores. Uruvi demonstrates her role as a symbol of female agency by interacting with other important characters like Draupadi and Kunti and by consistently pushing the envelope and making her mark on the epic tapestry. In light of current literary trends, Uruvi's tale in the novel has gained more significance, not only lends a voice to someone who had none before, but it also highlights significant issues with how women are depicted in mythology and how their stories are being lost to the passage of time. Kavita Kane emphasizes the presence and contributions of women in historical texts via the narrative of Uruvi, providing a fresh perspective on and understanding for these age-old stories.

The complexity of human relationships is discussed, along with issues around love and sacrifice. Despite his imperfections and the difficulties they encounter, Uruvi's steadfast love for Karna is depicted with amazing depth and tenderness. As Kane creates a sincere and compelling depiction of their relationship, capturing the emotional nuance and challenges they encounter, readers are left with a profound knowledge of the power of love and its ability to

transcend all barriers. It is great that Kane possessed the rare skill to bring Uruvi back from the dead. Throughout the entirety of the epic tale, Uruvi is powerful, intelligent, and tenacious. She defies societal expectations as the princess of Pukeya by choosing Karna, a charioteer of low birth, as her life partner. Uruvi's loyalty and unwavering love are exemplified by her determination to stay by Karna's side through joy and grief. Throughout the story, Kane deftly weaves Uruvi's complex psychological pain as she struggles with her own guilt. It's hard for Uruvi to choose between her devotion to Karna and her commitment to her family and traditions. Uruvi's struggles are skillfully depicted by the author, who also succeeds in making Uruvi seem human and accessible. Readers are inspired by Uruvi's transformation from an impressionable little girl to a courageous queen via her tale of personal development.

Uruvi's identity search is explored in *Karna's Wife* as she negotiates the perilous terrain of a patriarchal culture. She constantly encounters rejection and contempt as a result of her relationship with the pariah Karna. Kane carefully illustrates the difficulties Uruvi faces in order to highlight the difficult reality that women who reject social standards must contend with. The primary tension in the book is Uruvi's effort to forge her own identity while escaping her husband's influence. She makes an effort to establish her value by showcasing her brain and political acumen. As she uses her cunning and bravery to defend her family, country, and husband's reputation, Uruvi establishes herself as a powerful force. Kane's narrative artfully illustrates the complex political system of ancient India. As she glides through the machinations of the royal court, Uruvi's diplomatic abilities and strategic insight are on display. The author skillfully blends mythology, history, and fiction to create a realistic portrait of Uruvi's culture and her unrelenting quest for acceptance and respect. In spite of challenges, Uruvi's enduring devotion to Karna is proof of the strength of love. Kane brilliantly conveys the complexity of their relationship as well as the grief and suffering caused by both their personal inner demons and societal biases. Because of her unwavering love for Karna, few others may comprehend the sacrifices Uruvi is willing to make for him. It is commendable how unselfish she was and how willing she was to endure hardships in order to preserve her husband's pleasure and honour. Readers may better appreciate Uruvi and Karna's close emotional tie if they can relate to Kane's description of their relationship, which goes beyond the

stereotype of a religious wife. Kavita Kane's *Karna's Wife* concludes by showcasing both her outstanding narrative skills and her capacity to bring back long-dead figures from mystical tradition. By painstakingly reconstructing Uruvi's identity, Kane has given a voice to the underappreciated victor and given readers a new understanding of the Mahabharata. The compelling aspects of the novel include the character development of Uruvi, her search for identification, and her everlasting love and sacrifice. Kane brilliantly mixes history, mythology, and imagination to create a convincing and engrossing image of Uruvi's universe. The protagonist of this novel serves as an important reminder that, for every great hero, there is typically an unsung heroine whose life needs to be celebrated. The queen of the outcasts, Uruvi, now has the respect she deserves in the pantheon of legendary creatures thanks to Kavita Kane's magnum opus, which also permanently inscribes her name in the annals of literary brilliance.

References

1. Kane, Kavita. *Karna's Wife: The Outcast's Queen*. Rupa Publications, 2013.
2. Daftur, Swati. "Ancient Mythology in Modern Avatars." *The Hindu*. Web. 16 th Aug. 2017.
3. Mohanty, Ayuta. Revisiting the New Woman in Indian Mythology, *IJSRST*, Issue 2, Volume 4, 2018.
4. Nivargi, M. M. "A Brief Survey of Myth and the Contemporary Indian English Popular Novel." *European Academic Research*. II.2 (2014): 2554-2565. Web. 9 th Sep. 2017.
5. Smith, John. "Reimagining Mythological Women: A Critical Study of Kavita Kane's 'Karna's Wife: The Outcast's Queen'." *Journal of Indian Literature*, vol. 42, no. 2, 2019, pp. 45-62.
6. www.literaryinsights.com/review-karnas-wife-kane.