

KAVITA KANE'S KARNA'S WIFE, URUVI: A CRITICAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

Since ancient times Epic is quoted by people as example wherever required. Mahabharatha, a great Indian epic has been the subject for various research, interpretation and re-interpretation. Mostly the male characters of epic are discussed. Though female characters play a vital role in epics they are not much discussed or analysed. Kavita Kane's Karna's Wife The Outcast's Queen is one among those. In Karna's Wife Kavita Kane has thrown light towards Uruvi Character. This paper attempts to analyse the Character of Uruvi and brings out the importance.

Keywords: Mythology, Character, Analysis, Perspective, Importance.

Introduction

The Mahabharatha, is one of the greatest and important epic is treasured and handed over generation to generation. In this epic values, social beliefs, war ideas, curse, Sin and fall, mythical beliefs, learning methods, Power of God, Demons etc are implied.

Many writers have tried to retell the great epic in various forms and functions. Devdutt Pattanaik, Kavita Kane, Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, Amish Tripathi and Ashwin Sanghi are the five mythological writers who make the readers to think about mythology again because of its implications in life.

Kavita Kane is one of the important Indian Mythological fiction writers, who stand unique due to her representation of mythological characters. She makes the readers realize the relevance to revisit the myth in today's world.

Karna's wife sheds light on the perspectives of female characters and their emotions towards the family members and their living conditions. They were disregarded all along; nonetheless it is worth studying Wife of Karna, The Outcast's Queen. The story begins with archery contest where Karna a charioteer's son, openly challenges Arjuna and is in turn ridiculed for his low birth. Attracted by his charms and godly beauty, Uruvi falls in love with him and marries him with huge humiliation. Her story runs parallel to the events of the Mahabharata. Over time she would become Karna's counsellor, friend, and guide.

Critical Analysis

This paper analyses the main character Uruvi. Uruvi played a prominent and perfect soul mate to the important character Karna. Karna's wife, The Outcast's queen, Princess of Pukeya.

Kane here imparts a detailed portrayal of the character Uruvi. Uruvi's life from her Childhood days in Pukeya Kingdom, Swayamwara and marriage, she goes on to narrate her life as a mother of Vrishakethu until the denial of Pandava's Hastinapur to her son.

Various critical reading explored the Mahabharatha and was studied from the perspective of Karna, Arjuna, Draupadi. Some of the minor characters such as Uruvi were not studied in so far. Kavita Kane has tried to bring out the best from Uruvi as she plays a vital role in moulding Karna.

Uruvi, a felicitous and gleeful happy making girl inside and outside very beautiful and pretty enough to allure, hypnotize others in her appearance and talk. Her parents King Vahusha and Queen Shubra are always happy to have such a flawless girl. All people around her loved her to the core for her innate character and behaviour. Nothing affects her in her house until she was a daughter of King Vahusha and Subharu.

The beauty inner and outer of Uruvi is best described by the author as below..... "Usually she wore a lovely infectious smile. Either it was a flashing one which lit up her oval face or a slow one suffused with an elfin charm".

When we look into the meritoriousness of Uruvi, she excels in everything such as like mathematics, astronomy, herbal gardening, horse riding, ayurveda and healing. Her guru speaks about her interest in healing and Ayurveda and adds credit to her merit; he said that her smile and finger nurses more the wounded than her medicine.

When King of Vahusha decided to conduct Swayamwara to his daughter. she revealed her likeness towards Karna to her parents and she is mature enough at her young age itself to decide her partner who does not belong to Kshatriya clan, and she is strong enough to defend her point against all the people in society. Despite the compulsion of the family members she is clear and strong in her decision. Uma Chakravathy, in her essay *Conceptualising Brahminical Patriarchy in Early India* uses the term 'Brahminical Patriarchy' to highlight the control of women and their sexuality through a rigid caste system. The control of women's sexuality is prevalent through marriages within the same caste group. "The lower caste male whose sexuality is a threat to upper caste purity has been institutionally prevented from having sexual access to women to the higher castes so women must be carefully guided" (Chakravathy; 579). Uruvi's decision to marry Karna and her life after such a marriage is a manifestation of the Patriarchal control and this control is precisely that Uruvi resists through her marriage.

"I am in love with a good man, who is honest and brave. I want to marry him. I am asking your permission and want your blessings to do so".

She is expected to marry Arjuna in Swayamwara but to everyone's shock she rejected him and chose Karna instead this bold act evoked anger and pain among Pandavas and indirectly speaks about her courage in decision making. Uruvi became Karna's wife and took care of the family with great love and affection. She understood the plight of Karna's first wife Virushali and the kids and she took care of them with care and maturity.

Uruvi wanted to apologize to Draupadi when she learnt Karna humiliated Draupadi when Arjuna and his brother lost everything including his Kingdom and

wife. She was angry and shameful of the behaviour of her husband and wanted apology from Draupadi and Arjuna. This act reflects the compassion of Uruvi as a woman and her feelings towards the tragic incident of disrobing in the public.

Uruvi feels extremely proud to be a soulmate of Karna because of his bravery, charity, intelligence, and love towards others. She goes hand in hand with Karna in all his endeavours. All people in the family respect Uruvi not only she is Karna's wife but also she possess rich character and maturity.

Uruvi was blessed with Vrishakethu, Karna become father once again and both of them enjoyed their parenting. She demonstrates her role as a mother as she considers pain as a pleasure in bringing up his son as a son of the great Person. She teaches her son Vrishakethu a perfect qualities and his character speaks at the end.

However Uruvi is unhappy with Karna's association with two people: Sakuni and Duryodhana. As a responsible wife she wants Karna to disassociate himself from them. She hatred both of them even; at the very sight. Whereas her emotions and feelings towards Draupadi are similar to an ordinary married woman, she gets disturbed with Draupadi because she already knew Draupadi love towards Karna.

Once Uruvi came to know about the biological mother of Karna, she was extremely happy not because of Karna's lineage that he belongs to Kshatriya Clan, but also because of Karna always feels a lot about his birth secret.

Though she understands well about his husband Karna and his friendship with Duryodhana, Uruvi pleaded Karna to put an end to his friendship with Duryodhana, failing which will pave way for the destruction of our entire family as well as huge loss to the country. It shows her extreme affection with Karna and her family. However Uruvi maintained a good relationship with Banumathi, the wife of Duryodhana.

Uruvi approached all people whomever possible to safeguard Karna from Kurushetra War, but all her attempt went in vain and she consoles herself and

prepare her mind to face everything and decides to stand at their husband side to achieve his desire. Once, the war starts, she felt like standing on thorns. Everyday she comes to know the happenings of the war and prays for her husband Karna though she knows the end very well in prior, as fate starts to play. As a normal wife she too expects miracle but in vain. As expected she gets the tragic news of Karna's end. She faced the news courageously and stands with full confidence in order to protect the family. It shows her strong will power even at the disastrous situation.

Beena, in her Research Article, *Beyond the Threshold of Caste and Gender: Uruvi's Feministic Journey in Kavitha Kane's Karna's Wife* presented her view about Uruvi at the end of the fiction. The war takes place despite all efforts by Uruvi to convince Karna not to be a part of it. The carnage takes place and warriors after warriors get sacrificed. Uruvi lives her entire life fighting to defend Karna and dreading his death. However when she loses him forever, Uruvi takes pride in the fact that Karna lived and died like a great warrior and in death gained his legitimacy that he always carved for. Uruvi moves beyond anger and hatred and is able to forgive everyone around including Duryodhana, Arjuna, Krishna and Kunti (Beena:173). After the death of Karna, Uruvi and their son Vrishakethu were offered to rule over Pandava Kingdom. They were given the kingdom once Karna's birth secret was revealed that he was a son of Kunti. Eventually Vishakethu became the King of Pukeya while Uruvi decided to spend her time peacefully by service. She spends her last days by treating the wounded and injured warriors by her healing power and Ayurveda. During her journey, she transforms herself from an ordinary family woman to saintly person.

Conclusion

Kavita Kane attained her success in portraying the unspoken flawlessly who played a silent and prominent role in the greatest epic Mahabharatha. The Outcast's Queen, Karna's wife is a fiction which serves success not only to Kavita Kane but also Uruvi too.

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