

Sub-version of Myth: Portrayal of Karna's two wives in Kavita Kane's *Karna's Wife*

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Abstract:

Karna's Wife is the first work of the writer, Kavita Kane who is “trying to portray a small chunk, a small aspect which has not been dealt with yet” in the Mahabharata. In *Karna's Wife*, Kavita Kane portrays female characters like Uruvi and Vrushali who are victims at the hands of men and fate and how they still balance their lives and endure it all. Vrushali is the first wife of Karna and her husband married Uruvi and was deeply in love with her. Her rights, his attention, his love, everything is distributed. Uruvi who is Karna's second wife is constantly seen striving throughout the novel to keep her husband away from Duryodhana's evil camaraderie because she fears that this alliance will certainly lead to her husband's catastrophe. It would be very interesting to see how these two women have come out of these gritty situations, faced the veracity and still lived mightily.

Introduction:

Kavita Kane is “famous for writing on lesser-known female characters from the Indian mythology.” In one of her interviews with the Times of India, Kavita Kane mentions, “the narrative changes the moment the spotlight falls on them and most of my protagonists have been either minor or overlooked characters.” *Karna's Wife* is “the story of Karna told by his wife acting as a *sutradhar* (narrator) in the narrative.” Kavita says, “Uruvi, though, was a completely fictional figure I took creative liberties with essentially because I did not want to

corrupt the character of Shivaji Sawant's Vrushali from the classic Mrityunjay." So, she has created the character of Uruvi who is Karna's wife, a strong and bold woman, who "could face and confront stalwarts like Kunti or Bhism and ask them questions." The women characters from mythology which Kavita Kane picks in her work have their " silent tales, unheard and unsung." She believes that "mythology can be a huge canvas for contemporary thought. It is not telling us some old tales, as so carelessly assumed, of Gods and Goddesses, but of Man and his follies and fallacies." Kane is "fascinated by minor and largely overlooked women characters- those who are vastly ignores, often even discounted."

According to Virginia Woolf and Doris Lessing, it is usual for "women to not know or even realise their natural rights. That is the tragedy, the journey, the travails, the tribulations and eventually the destination."

Portrayal of Karna's two wives:

Uruvi is the only daughter of King Vahusha of Pukeya and Queen Shubra. She was eminently alluring. "Slender and petite, her loveliness was distracting, speciously masking her incisive wit." (P 8) Her father loves her and idolises her like no one else in his world. He is very proud of his daughter and confesses that "she is my world."(P 9) Uruvi is an "individual who is born to win over people by her innate character and distinctiveness." (P 9) Uruvi is an undaunted woman who never dithers to "voice her thoughts." (P 9) Uruvi falls in love with Karna at the very sight. She "had found an appearance and personality so close to perfection that she could convince herself that her quest had been fulfilled" in Karna. (P 12) In the beginning, Karna is shown as the son of a charioteer and is referred to as "sutaputra." He was "a beautiful orphaned baby, with bewitching kundals (earrings) and a golden kavach (armour) to. Protect him, who had mysteriously strayed into a river and into the lonely lies of Dhritarashtra's charioteer, Adhiratha , and his wife Radha." (P 12) The Pandavas and many

others make fun of him for his low birth, for not being a kshatriya and for not being a prince and a warrior. It is Duryodhana who comes to his defence and declares him the King of Anga. There and then, Duryodhana “performed the required rituals to crown Karna the King of Anga on the spot.”(P 4) From this day onwards, the friendship between the two becomes one to die for and this is the alliance which will eventually lead to Karna’s nemesis affecting all the women characters. Duryodhana “had promoted the young sutaputra to royalty, transforming him from Radheya, the son of Radha, to Karna, the mighty warrior and the King of Anga.” (P 13) Despite his low birth and being referred to as a king “not by birth, not by worth” (P 13), Uruvi, who is a cosseted Princess, “loved this man most people treated with such scorn.” (P 13) Uruvi is a person who is totally against war and hates to see its consequences in the form of bloodbath and often argued with her father on the same. She “loathed war and warlords and her father suspected that there were moments she hated being a kshatriya princess too.” (P 16) She loves her parents and cannot hurt them for any reason. But now that she wants to marry Karna, she knows that she is going to fail them but “being Karna’s wife was now her only aspiration, the only aim that gave meaning to her life.” (P 16) When Uruvi tells her parents about her desire to marry Karna, all they can do is just explain her the repercussions and try to persuade her in all viable ways so that she changes her idea of marrying him. Her father says, “it will be no life for a kshatriya princess. It’s a living death!” (P 19) He tries to explain to her how Karna’s alliance with Duryodhana is bringing him bad name and that he is also counted among the bad men which already include Shakuni, Duryodhana and Dushana. But Uruvi never believes these hearsay. Her father explained that Karna being under Duryodhana’s debt has allied “himself with evil, he will also get corrupted slowly but surely. All his good qualities will come to nothing. His great valour, his intelligence, his generosity, his fortitude, are tainted by this one single flaw- his blind support to the wicked.” (P 20) He warns Uruvi that “his loyalty to Duryodhana will bring about his

downfall.” (P 21) But Uruvi pays a deaf ear to her parents and everyone else’s admonitions and goes on to choose Karna in her swayamwara which leaves everyone present there in a state of oblivion. This shows the integrity of Uruvi’s love for Karna where she is ready to renounce almost all the things dearest to her. Uruvi gets a lot of condemnation from everyone when she chooses Karna at her swayamwara. Arjuna, who is expected by everyone to be chosen utters, “If she does not care to marry a prince, she should either remain a virgin or jump into a pyre.” This is how there are terms and conditions made for women and all the rights are reserved for men. Men can marry multiple times whomsoever they want to but if women does the same, their character is being probed. Men treat women as the one who have to think of their limitations, their morality and the ones who cannot do anything as per their choice and have to take counsel from men to make any decision in their lives. But Uruvi is the one who does not believe in all this and fights for her rights and her desires. She finally fulfils her yearning in opposition to everyone and marries Karna. Before leaving her parents’ house, Uruvi goes into recollecting her childhood and “she realized she had rarely cried in this house” and she “suddenly swamped with a surge of sadness at the thought of parting from her home and her parents.” (P 39) This is a certitude in every woman’s life that one day she has to leave her solace, go to her husband’s house and accept the new family, new conventions and everything else. No matter how much a woman feels sad to leave her parents behind, she still has to go.

Karna is curious to know that why did Uruvi choose her to which Uruvi narrates her love story where she fell for him and had determined that she would just marry him. Karna warns Uruvi of the inflexible path which she has preferred. He says, “ my past beckons my present, but I can see only a blurred future. All my life, I have been slighted as a person of low birth- and the stigma will rub off on you as well. Yet, I am not ashamed of who I am.” (P

41) Karna knew that now that he is Uruvi's husband, she is going to be humiliated and reminded of her husband's identity time and again.

Life after marrying Karna is not very placid and Uruvi has to deal with a set of circumstances. Karna's younger brother, Shona, is not very happy about the marriage and says, "I am not against Karna bringing another bride home, but she's a kshatriya princess, a stranger, an outsider who will never be able to mingle with us. She is sure to disrupt the peace of this house. Worse, she may take him away from us."(P 45) Uruvi was welcomed by Karna's first wife, Vrsuhali and when Uruvi saw her, she "felt like an intruder, trespassing on the happiness of the woman in front of her." (P 46)

As other new brides, like most of the women do feel, Uruvi also "felt she was a guest in her new home, trespassing on unknown territory, amidst people she had just met but whom she did not know; with those whom she would learn to love, but not unconditionally as she did her parents."(P 47) Uruvi has to share her husband Karna "not just with his parents and his brothers but his wife as well. She knew that sharing, as her parents had realized very early in her life, was not her strong point because as an only child, the love she gave and received was absolute, undivided and exclusive." (P 48) These are the initial disturbances she has to withstand. Karna is deeply in love with her and his feelings for her are not out of "sense of duty a husband reserves for his wife, or just simple lust. He admired her." (P 49) He is galvanized with "not mere knowledge" of hers but "her ability to comprehend even nuances with a quick, deep perceptiveness."(P 49) This shows that Uruvi is beauty with brains. Her knowledge is as much cherished as her beauty is and this makes her husband fall for her intensely. As far as Vrushali was concerned, Uruvi "did not feel comfortable" around her not because Vrushali was spiteful but "because of her own sense of guilt for intruding in the older woman's marital paradise." (P 50) The irony is that they "remained stubbornly unfamiliar, two strangers under the same roof, sharing and loving the same man." (P 50)

Uruvi is highly disliked by her brother-in-law, Shona, because of which she feels a bit annoyed. She also knows that though Vrushali is being nice to her, she does not “think well of her.”(P 50) This is an obvious situation in a woman’s life. Sharing the same man as a husband and staying in the same house, possibly makes it difficult to adapt. Men do not think twice before marrying another woman as did Karna and they are open to getting as many wives as they want without caring what the other woman might feel. And then they show their love and care to both and it becomes a difficult situation in a woman’s life to see her sharing her husband.

Uruvi is not much at home in her new home and she “feel lost”, “bereft, without the warmth of the family and friends she missed.” She misses everyone, her father who “had watched her with a tender smile, her mother’s indulgent look as she played the sitar, Kunti’s outpouring of affection each time they met” and feels “perplexed.”(P 51) Not only Uruvi but this phase comes in every woman’s life where she misses her family, friends, her home and starts getting feelings of despondency.

Uruvi feels taxing to control her discontent which she has when she sees Karna and Vrushali together each time but then she reminds herself that “she was the interloper, not Vrushali.”(P 53) This way Uruvi is quite mature to always understand that she is one to nose into their lives and not Vrushali. Uruvi feels solitary most of the times and she has no one to speak out her emotions to. She misses her parents terribly specially her mother and wishes that “ she could rush to her mother and vent her emotions of the moment, whether it was anger, frustration or happiness, or just engage in idle talk.” (P 54) But Uruvi gives her best to get accustomed to her new home and its members and “toned down her lavish ways, self-conscious about being extravagant and ostentatious at times.” (P 55) “Except for her jealousy, which sometimes surfaced”(P 55), Uruvi is immensely delighted to marry Karna as he loves her too much.

Socially, as expected, Uruvi has many tongues talking about her and “noblewomen looked at her inquisitively wherever she went, handmaids glanced at her furtively as she passed by, and royal ladies put their heads together to discuss her behind her back.” (P 57-58) Since the time when Uruvi was unmarried, she was the kind of woman who was “more interested in art, literature and medicine than in idle gossip” and she still is. (P 58-59) But Uruvi cannot shrug off the degradation each time specially when it comes to her parents. In one of the events hosted by her parents, half of the invited guests do not turn up, and those who come gives Uruvi a “cold shoulder.” (P 59) She feels very bad to see the “embarrassment on her mother’s face” but she knows that she has to be habitual to all of this as people will keep reminding her of her marriage with a low caste. She then remembers her “mother’s words of caution, warning her of how people would treat her after her marriage to Karna.” (P 59) Uruvi is even hoaxed by her very close childhood friends and she is distressed. Uruvi tries to get along with the royal ladies on different occasions against her wishes and “had to pretend to be kind to them.” (P 61) Her parents were proud of her nerve that even after knowing that everyone mocks her behind her back, she still faces such set of people, chats with them and carries a smile on her face. King Vahusha mentions, “any other person would have locked herself in her home to hide from this deliberately cold treatment and the unkind remarks. But not my Uruvi; she’s a lioness all right!” (P 61)

Everyone is against Uruvi’s marriage with Karna. She is being told by the elders like Bhishma Pitamaha that Karna’s “greatest hunger” will always be “for acceptance, for social recognition” (P 63) but Uruvi stands strong to all the accusations against her husband and tries to explain the good and the brave side of her husband. Fingers are being pointed at Karna for being on Kauravas side and making friends with the evil. He says, “Karna is valiant and righteous. So is Arjuna. But Karna is on the side of evil and Arjuna is on the side of truth. Karna can never win against him” (P 64) to which Uruvi also agrees. She too does not want

Karna to be friends with Duryodhana and others and tries her best to keep him away from such individuals but in vain.

Karna loves Uruvi, enormously. He says Uruvi is like a “wild exotic flower in a desert who must be sheltered from the bitter winds. I want to protect Uruvi; she has fought the world to be with me.”(P 67) He also believes that he doesn’t deserve an extraordinary woman like Uruvi who he thinks has a “wonderful intelligence.” He accepts, “ I love her enthusiasm, her lively humour, her ambition to work as a healer.”(P 67)

Uruvi nor anyone in the family, approved of Karna’s and Duryodhana’s friendship. She contends with Duryodhana telling him not to drag Karna in his personal dispute with the Pandavas to which Duryodhana said that even he asks Karna to go away from his life, Karna will never him do that as he is like a brother to him and won’t ever leave his side. Uruvi tries hard to explain it to Karna about Duryodhana’s evilness but Karna says, “you accept a friend with his faults, however bad” and that he is the one “who has helped me at all times. Always.” (P 84) He further says, “Duryodhana gave me the kingdom without my asking for it and I shall give him my undying friendship in return. I promised him I shall serve him till my last breath and I am committed to him for life.” (P 86) This is the kind of relationship they both have and Uruvi can do nothing about it. She just keeps pleading in front of Karna in different situations but in vain because each time he has the same answer to give. So as his wife, Uruvi “had resigned herself to the reality that she had to live with the enemies. Her father had cautioned her; so had Kunti.” (P 94)

Since Uruvi has got married, she has always tried to avoid or hide from people like Krishna or Bhisma Pitamaha and “found it difficult to reconcile herself to this apologetic way of living.” (P 95) Uruvi’s life just gets miserable each day because of the growing friendship between Duryodhana and Karna of which she has been warned already and which will lead to Karna’s annihilation. The life of the woman is such. She has to accept the bitter truth and

start living with it. A man will do what he wants to do at any cost then be it hurting his own family and wife just like Karna did. Though he loves Uruvi too much still he cannot give up on his bond with Duryodhana.

Once in the game of dice, when King Yudhisthira gambles away his wife Draupadi to the Kauravas, Karna finds it the right moment to avenge his insult done which she had done at her swayamwara and “encouraged Duryodhana’s brother Dushasana to drag Draupadi into the court and disrobe her.”(P 114) When Uruvi learns about this deplorable incident which is lead by her own husband, she is in “shock” and thinks that “this is the start of the finish.”(P 115) She finally decides to leave for her father’s home and before leaving she exchanges impertinent words to Karna. With a broken heart, she leaves Karna. She is already pregnant when she decides to leave Karna and go back to her home. He tries to explain his part but in vain as the gaffe committed by him is indefensible. Karna has called Draupadi a whore in the same event where later she was disrobed and Kunti, who is her mother-in-law says that what he has said is true as the woman who has more than four husbands is defined like this. Arjuna swears on killing Karna one day and take revenge for what he has done to Draupadi. Uruvi comes to beg in front of Draupadi saying, “you are the only one who can stop the insanity that is about to begin- it will destroy all of us eventually!” and asks for her “forgiveness”(P 125) But Draupadi is not the one to be making peace as revenge is in her head. She mentions, “let all those who made me suffer burn in the hell of hate, pain and humiliation as I am burning now. I shall make each one of them endure the worst.”(P 125) Uruvi feels sorry for Draupadi and worries for her husband as she knows that he will surely face the worst for what he has done by disgracing a woman.

Back at her home in Pukeya, Uruvi cannot stop thinking of Karna and her love for him. She stays unsettled for she cannot decide what to do next. She loves Karna too much but at the same time, she is not able to forget what he has done to Draupadi. Slowly and

gradually, she starts to be at peace and “gathered enough cheerfulness within her to giggle with her friends about becoming a mother soon.”(P 144) But in her heart she still felt the “rawness” and “couldn’t help thinking about Karna and the turbulent days, weeks and months that had separated them.” (P 144-145) In between, Karna pays a visit to Uruvi, requesting her to return with him, but she does not. She says, “I can live with you as your wife, but never as your lover again” and “I love you but love comes with respect and that respect has gone.”(P 146-147)

After a few months, Uruvi gave birth to her son, Vrishakethu. After that she leaves with Karna to her return home. But things aren’t the same between the two now though Uruvi tries “to ease the tension as best as she could but constantly found herself torn between longing and despair.”(P 168) Most of the times, she kept herself occupied with the baby so that she can “distract herself from the thoughts of Karna.” (P 168) But Uruvi is still in love with Karna and she cannot let go off those feelings towards him and it disturbs her all the more as she know what the future holds. Karna’s death is inexorable at the hands of Arjuna.

Uruvi knows that she is going to lose Karna forever but she does not want it to happen before time. She cries, “ I fear I am going to lose you forever. But I don’t want to lose you before the time comes. I am afraid. I am so scared I have already lost you. And by oushing you away, I am doing exactly that. Damn my rules and my moralizing...! I care more for you than ever and I want you with me. I am sorry for what I put you through...it was pride, it was my foolishness. I can’t go on without you anymore!”(P 192) After pretending to not care for Karna for a longer time, Uruvi finally divulged her feelings of agitation, loss and love.

As the days look a stone’s throw away for the war between the Pandavas and the Kauravas, Uruvi spends sleepless and restless nights finding a way out to stop it. Not only Uruvi but many others like Krishna, Bhishma Pitamah and Kunti also try to persuade Karna to not be a part of the war. In this process, the biggest secret of all time about Karna’s birth

is divulged. His mother is none other than Queen Kunti. He is born out of an “unusual boon” which his mother had received from Sage Durvasha and it was that “through a mantra, she could invite any god and have a child from him.” Out of inquisitiveness, the unmarried and young Kunti tried the mantra and “invoked Lord Surya.” She tried to send him away but “the mantra had come into play” and that is how Karna is born. To save herself from social shame she had to forcefully leave her first born in the Ganga. Krishna is the first person to tell Karna the truth that he is the eldest brother of the Pandavas so that he does not partakes in the war and is saved from the consequences. Even Bhishma Pitamah and Kunti are not able to convince Karna to fight his own brothers and eventually lose in the battle. Queen Kunti even goes to the extent of taking promise from Karna that “he would not use any divine weapon more than once” to which he respectfully agrees.(P 283)Karna does not agree to the idea of not engaging in the war as his first and foremost duty was always towards his friend, Duryodhana for whom he could even sacrifice his life happily. He just requests one thing to Queen Kunti and that the Pandavas should not know of the truth that he is their eldest.

Uruvi on finding out this truth is devastated and exasperated at the same time. She “wanted to punish Kunti as harshly as she had wronged them; and the brutal truth was her only weapon to crush her.”(P 262) It is now the eighteenth day of the war when Karna and Arjuna are to face each other. Uruvi is “filled with a new dread; fresh and strong, it stoked her worst fears.” (P 277) Uruvi wants to be with Karna for the last time before he goes to the battlefield. She knows what’s going to happen but she still has a diminutive hope that he will return to her. Before leaving for the field of operations, Karna told Kunti “you are my brave soldier, fighting for and protecting all of us. Look after the family for me. And I will be there for you. Always, my little woman.” (P 278)With these heart breaking words, Karna left never to return again. He was killed by Arjuna who “killed Karna through treachery!” (P 284)

Karna's last wishes before dying are that "Queen Kunti should declare publicly that I was her son and that I am no longer a low-caste man" (P 290), the second one is " annadanam- his wish to distribute food to others so as to liberate his soul from cycle of births" and the third is to light his funeral pyre "on the most barren part of the earth so that no man may suffer the pain" like he did."(P 290)

After the death of Karna, Uruvi decides to stay at his home, taking care of his old parents and Vrushali. Though the Pandavas and Krishna ask her to come to Hastinapur where she rightly deserves to be as Karna's wife, she denies. She has come out very strong in this situation of sorrow and agony and forgetting her own sufferings, has decided to look after Karna's family which he has left behind. Vrushali kills herself in grief and few years later, her in-laws Radha and Adhiratha also leaves the world. After this all, Uruvi decides to head back to her childhood home in Pukeya and takes care of her old parents. Her son, Vrishakethu, under the guidance of the Pandavas and Krishna, "became a great warrior like his father Karna, filling Uruvi with pride."(P 307)

Vrushali is the first wife of Karna. She is shown as a very calm and forbearing woman. When she gets the news of her husband's marriage, she just has one thing to say, "If he is going to be happy, so be it." (P 45) She welcomes the newly-wed couple and does not show any sign of displeasure while welcoming them. Even her brother-in-law, Shona says, "as his wife, you are the one who is the most affected, yet you accept the situation so calmly!" (P 45) Karna has been married to Vrushali for "many years" and he feels that "his marriage to the suta princess had been a duty, marked by a devotion which was innate, instinctive part of his nature, his love for Vrushali being as deep as his love for Radha , like a calm ocean." (P 49) Vrushali was "mild-mannered, but a woman of spirit." (P 50) She gave paramount importance to her family and "Karna treated her with the utmost love and respect." (P 50) Being the elder daughter-in-law and wife, she never ill-treated Uruvi. She

was always nice to her and “whenever they met, Vrushali was always cool and unflustered, looking at her steadfastly, without emotion.” (P 50) Vrushali is a pacifist and she and Karna have never ever argued or brawled over anything in so many years of their marriage. She “could calm him with just a look or a word.” (P 53) She has the “temper of an angel.” (P 53)

Once, Karna while chatting to his brother, says that he does not love Uruvi in the same manner as he loves Vrushali and that he will “never hurt her.” (P 67) According to him, Vrushali is a “very good woman, with a sweet, gentle nature, who can make everyone happy.” (P 67) He says “I admire Vrushali more than any woman I have ever known.”(P 67) But Vrushali does not need any protection from anyone as she is “too capable and self-sufficient.” (P 67) Is this the disadvantage for being a strong woman? A woman has to be weak to be loved and taken care of? Karna has taken Vrushali’s love, care and patience for granted and that is why he feels that Vrushali can very well manage her emotions and take care of herself.

Vrushali, like others in the family, fears the consequences of Karna’s and Duryodhana’s close association. She once requests Uruvi, “Please do me a favour. Neither I, nor Mother, Father nor Shona have been ever able to convince Karna that his friendship with Duryodhana spells nothing but doom. Will you try to do something for me? Something that I have not been able to do for so many years? Keep Karna away from this detestable man!” (P 79) This shows the love and concern for Karna which she has, that makes her plea in front of Uruvi. Even though Karna caused her distress by marrying Uruvi, still she has an unswerving loyalty as a wife who puts her husband before self. Towards Uruvi, she was “cold yet polite, distant yet solicitous, greeting her but never making her feel welcome.” (P 169) Vrushali says she is sad about the fact that her husband is not the “same man whom I married so many years ago! He seems to have changed so much. Whether it’s a sign of corruption or maturity is something I fail to understand.” (P 171) Vrushali even mentions to Uruvi that she has “lost

him" to her. (P 172) Vrushali finally confesses her feelings of being jealous of Uruvi once. She says, "I knew I had to step back- and watch you being his wife and lover, which was difficult task at first!" (P 172) She also admitted that she is "no longer in love with the man" Karna is today. (P 173) Vrushali is annoyed at Uruvi for having left Karna when he needed her the most and tells Uruvi that "he asked me to intercede for him, to implore you to return. I refused as I believe what's between the two of you is too private." (P 174) She further retorted, "I have grown up with his faults and I love him in spite of those. I have forgiven him a thousand times over, because each time he changed. I learnt that loving is giving. And forgiving. I only hope that by the time you do it, it is not too late... for you and for him." (P 174)

Vrushali likes to "watch Karna and Uruvi with their son" as they look "so content and blissful together that words would have shattered the tranquility of the moment." (P 193) It makes her happy and sad at the same time. She loves Karna "no less because he loved Uruvi." (P 193) She is happy with the fact that Karna is still his "closest friend, giving him the words of advice and the patience he expected from her." (P 193) Both the women loved Karna frantically but it was Uruvi who always caught his attention and his "eyes rested only on Uruvi." (P 193) Vrushali was an amazing woman who was tender-hearted. She has already accepted the fact much earlier that Uruvi holds a special place in Karna's life.

The eighteenth day of the way brings a tsunami in the lives of both the women as their beloved is killed at the hands of Arjuna. Vrushali. Vrushali "had quietly slipped into her room and kept herself locked in, trying to gather some semblance of her shattered life. She had cut herself off from the outside world." (P 288) She had lost her husband and her seven sons in the war. That was too much to deal with. It wasn't easy at all to bear this enormous loss. Vrushali is "almost mad with grief ever since her terrible losses" (P 297) and Uruvi tries

to comfort her. Not able to uphold herself from the trauma of the losses of her dear ones, Vrsuhali ends her life by killing herself.

Conclusion:

This piece of work by Kavita Kane is an amazing part of our Hindu Mythology which was lesser known to most of us. The two women characters, Uruvi and Vrushali, rendered by her, have a lot of qualities from which we can learn a great deal. The characters illuminate various attributes like being strong-headed, obligated, ingenious, self-willed and unswerving. The character of Uruvi is shown as the one who is so resolute on having Karna in her life that no one could stop her. Though she knows what her life is going to be like after marriage, she still chooses to marry Karna and remains loyal to him till her last breath. Vrushali on the other hand is a woman of absolute patience. She tolerates when Karna marries Uruvi brings her as his second wife. She never questions him or doubts his love towards her. She understands that the kind of relationship which she and Karna share cannot be put in words and she is happy. She does not envy Uruvi nor does Uruvi envy her. Both the women are kind and tolerant to each other and have accepted the fact that they love the same man under one roof. Uruvi is shown as a heroic woman, who takes care of the family when Karna dies in the battle, failing to recall her own woes. She stands as a strong underpin to his parents and Vrsuhali. It's only at the last after losing her husband and seven sons in the battle that Vrsuhali is in torment and finally ends her life. Thus, these are the two astonishing women in Karna's life whom he is thrilled to have and this is how these women fought spiritedly till the end.

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