

Sacred Texts: Reconnoitering the legacy of Indian Mythology through Modern reiteration in Kavita Kane's Select Novels

Indian literature is a vast and diverse body of works encompassing a rich heritage spanning thousands of years. It includes works written in various languages spoken in the Indian subcontinent, such as Sanskrit, Tamil, Hindi, Bengali, Urdu, and many others. Indian literature encompasses a wide range of genres, including epic poetry, religious and philosophical texts, plays, novels, short stories, and poetry. It has been used as a source of inspiration, a tool for cultural preservation, and a means of conveying complex ideas and messages. In Indian literature, mythology is not only a form of storytelling but a rich and complex system of beliefs, rituals, and practices that reflect the country's long and fascinating history. One of the most notable aspects of mythology in Indian literature is the emphasis on the concept of dharma, which is often seen as a central theme in many mythological stories. Whether it is through the stories of the Ramayana or the Mahabharata, or through the various legends and folktales that are passed down from generation to generation, mythology has the power to bring people together and create a sense of shared identity. Many of the country's most famous writers, including Rabindranath Tagore and Vikram Seth, have drawn inspiration from the rich and vibrant mythology of Indian culture. Overall, the role of mythology in Indian literature is a complex and multifaceted one. It has contributed to the development of a strong moral and ethical foundation, helped to unify a diverse culture, and inspired some of the country's most famous writers.

Kavita Kane was born and raised in Mumbai, India. She holds a master's degree in English Literature and has worked in the advertising and public relations industry. She is a contemporary Indian author known for her insightful and thought-provoking novels on Indian mythology and historical fiction. Kane's books often focus on the untold stories of women who played pivotal roles in shaping history, but have been overlooked or were misrepresented. Her works are known for their intricate detailing and character depiction, which delves deep into the psyche of the mythological characters. Her famous books are *Karna's Wife: The Outcast's Queen* (2013), *Sita's Sister* (2014), *Menaka's Choice* (2015), *Lanka's Princess* (2016), *The Fisher Queen's Dynasty* (2017), *Ahalya's Awakening* (2019) and *Saraswati's Gift* (2021). With her in-depth knowledge and interpretation of Indian mythology, Kane has gained a unique following of readers who greatly value her works. On exploring the various themes and motifs prevalent in Kane's literary works, analyzing her narrative style, and identifying the cultural and societal implications of her

works. It is aimed at providing a comprehensive understanding of the factors that have contributed to Kane's success as an author and the impact of her works on contemporary Indian society. The findings of this research will contribute to the understanding of Indian mythology, contemporary literature, and the role of literature in shaping cultural and social perspectives. The aim of this research is to study the works of contemporary Indian author Kavith Kane. The methodology for this research involves a thorough analysis of her novels through a literary lens. The study will examine the themes, characters, plot, and setting in order to understand the author's literary style. To achieve this, an extensive reading of Kane's books will be conducted, along with reviews and critical analyses of her works. The research will follow a qualitative approach, using interpretive analysis to make sense of the data gathered from the novels and the secondary sources. This will involve identifying patterns and themes that emerge from the novels and analyzing how they are portrayed. The analysis will also draw on theories of post colonialism and feminism to understand the author's perspective on the social and cultural issues she addresses in her works.

Kane's writing style is characterized by her meticulous research, attention to historical and mythological details, and ability to humanize and bring depth to her characters. She provides a fresh perspective on familiar stories by giving voice to the often-overlooked female characters and presenting their journeys with empathy and nuance. Here the comparison arises of Urmila, Sita, and Uruvi. In her writings, she mainly writes about mythological characters. The novel expresses the different shades of her character and it shows a terrific blend of mythology and contemporary storytelling. Here the comparison arises of Urmila, Sita, and Uruvi. She is trying to give a voice to the forgotten and the helpless. Like Urmila, there are many uncelebrated heroines in mythologies including Thara, Amba, Satyavati, Hidumbi and many more.

Kavita Kane did well in portraying Uruvi, a marginalized and feminist figure, in the narrative's conclusion. Women are the exact embodiment of sacrifice, and she has timely illustrated this idea by the measures she has made. No matter the situation, she always prioritizes her family's needs, just like Uruvi, who never stops thinking about her spouse and has taken on many of her roles. Despite the fact that women have never depended on men in history, she chose to keep quiet about the injustice she encountered out of respect for social norms and ideas. A community that has been harmed by patriarchal traditions can find solace in Kane's female characters. Kane's female characters pierce the glorified images of women by separating themselves from patriarchal worries and gender notions. The main characters in Kane, from Uruvi

to Ahalya, are all the polar opposites of conventional gender norms. According to Kane's prose, the damsel is to blame for the mishap. Her characters undermine traditional notions of womanhood.

Sita's sister is a fantastic retelling of the Ramayana from a different angle, a modified, warped, and idealized rendition of the Ramayana that pays tribute to a woman who stood firm at a time when powerful figures were falling. She is phenomenal because of her persistence, passion, and openness, but she is also human because of her unease, qualms, and tiredness. Through the voice of the character, the author portrays the life of a sensible and passionate lady. A feminist interpretation of "*Sita's Sister*" could look at a variety of topics. First, it may seem at how Urmila is portrayed as a unique character and assess how her experiences and agency are portrayed in connection to the story's male characters. Her goals, options, and restrictions in the patriarchal society of the Ramayana might all be examined in this perspective. The themes of sisterhood and female connections that are evident in the novel may also be explored through a feminist perspective. It may seem into how the relationship between Sita and Urmila is portrayed and how it defies or supports stereotypical notions of gender. The analysis may also look at how the novel addresses topics like gendered expectations, peer pressure, and the limitations placed on women in ancient Indian society.

As with Mahasweta Devi's Draupadi, Kane's Satyavati is "a marginalized woman with power and with voice." "The Fisher Queen's Dynasty" holds none of the characters harmless for their deeds. As a result, the narrative feels less fantastical and the events and characters are more grounded in reality. Her soaring ambition best describes Satyavati. Also extensively explored in the novel is the question of where to place the boundary between ambition and avarice. It has been looked into how women are objectified in Kane's feminist revisionist writing. Given Kane's history of emphasizing overlooked female characters that are the victims of patriarchal literary abuse and uplifting female voices, this might appear scandalous. The main focus of this article is not the author, but rather the patriarchal behaviors that are still prevalent in our culture and get solved in the author's novel, which she has pledged to expose.

Kavita Kane's novel "*Ahalya's Awakening*" is a reinterpretation of Ahalya, an ancient Hindu legendary figure well-known for her connection to the Ramayana. She investigates Ahalya's perspective and gives her a voice by digging into her personal path and experiences. From the standpoint of feminist analysis, the book offers a compelling exploration of gender

dynamics, power relations, and choice within a patriarchal society. Ahalya is shown as a complicated character with more characteristics than the traditional seduction or retaliation victim. She is portrayed as a strong, independent woman who defies social expectations and yearns for freedom. Exposing significant problems with victimization and the unequal treatment of women in society, this novel takes on the problem of victim-blaming. The novel challenges the notion that women's libido should be suppressed. In addition to highlighting the significance of permission and agency in intimate matters, the novel questions the idea that female passion should be restrained or controlled. Defining mythology with a feminist perspective: Kane emphasizes the possibilities for female reclamation and reinterpretation of ancient myths through reworking Ahalya's story.

This research investigates the idea of the woman as the marginalized other in the man woman binary in Kavita Kane's mythopoeic narrative, *Lanka's Princess*. Surpanakha was not wicked, but wronged in every way. Although her actions resulted in countless deaths, they were the result of a wronged soul, not a wicked being. Surpanakha becomes a completely demoralized but spiritually advanced person who is at one with her own and the rest of the universe by the time Kane's mythic story comes to a close. She is one of the most ignored and misunderstood characters in the Ramayana. The research also discusses how Kane's narrative transforms Surpanakha into a more complex and sympathetic character. She is portrayed as a strong and independent woman who is able to fight for her own rights and take her own independent decisions. She was a victim in the hands of patriarchal dominance and a gender-biased society. She represents the 'new woman of the 21 century who does not succumb to control and dominance. She is an independent woman who rightfully expresses her choices, voices her desires, and asserts her identity within the patriarchal controls. Though considered a demoness, she had a human side that was neglected. Through *Lanka's Princess*, the character of Surpanakha is empowered, and given a voice to speak and react. The disciplinary system, as a method of subversion, uses internalization, surveillance gaze and self-discipline.

Since *Menaka* is an apsara, her performance embodied both injustice and divinity. The novel explores how society portrays gender triumphs and attraction between each gender as well as a new kind of self-discipline that crushes any opposition. Menaka is trapped in the web of power and resistance; it is merely a pervasive, figurative idea. Menaka is a symbol of both submission and resistance since she is able to break free from Indra's restrictions but is also

constrained by her status as an apsara and eventually fails to overthrow the ruling order. Kane has created a mythology that examines its origins, embraces the gender bias and subjugation of women, and reveals their hidden aspirations and experiences. The study also discloses that it has been demonstrated that men's spirituality is threatened by women's bodies. Contrary to the novel's title, it demonstrates patriarchal control over women's decisions.

In '*Sarasvati's Gift*', Kavita Kane tells the goddess' story. The story also sheds light on Sarasvati and Brahma's peculiar union, which is seen as a union of two equals and autonomous spirits. Although Sarasvati's feminine might is revered, few people are aware that the goddess believed in having other objectives for her life beyond marriage and motherhood. This is a wonderful story about the goddess Sarasvati, told in the voices of unnamed celestials, gods, and some lower mortals. The characters created by Kane give the gods, goddesses, and celestial beings a more relatable and human quality. This not only offers their narrative a new perspective, but it also makes it more timely. The astonishing story of Sarasvati, which is typically obscured by myths and stories, is briefly revealed in her novel "*Sarasvati's Gift*."

Scope for further research :

Kavita Kane's novels give time-honored mythological tales a contemporary spin that gives a special place in the canon of Indian literature. She tells tales from the perspectives of underrepresented female characters in well-known epics like the Mahabharata and Ramayana, which is a distinctive feature of her works. With regard to gender, society, and identity within the context of mythology, these captivating narratives subvert accepted beliefs and foster insightful discussions. Her novels are compelling because of the way she develops her characters and uses descriptive language to show the depth and complexity of Indian mythology. Her writings emphasise the exploration of interpersonal relationships, the advancement of women's roles, and the portrayal of her characters in a relatable, modern setting. As a writer, Kane is successful in arousing curiosity in historical accounts and prompting reflection on the cultural standards that the myths she examines. A thorough investigation of her many writings and their settings is necessary to fully understand her legacy in modern Indian literature.

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