



# KARNA IN 21<sup>st</sup> CENTURY ENGLISH LITERATURE

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

In fact, the storey of Karna, the great tragic hero, has inspired numerous poets and playwrights throughout the centuries, both in Sanskrit and other regional languages. A character of great royal standing, or dhritodatta, should be the hero of a drama, according to Sanskrit dramaturgy. Karna possesses all of the qualities that a hero should have. It evokes a sympathetic response in the reader and leaves an indelible impression on the brains of Indians. Similarly, the sad figure has inspired countless authors to create stories based on it.

A large body of literature has been written with Karna as the principal figure.

## 2. Karnaabhatta by Bhasa-

Bhasa, the creator of Sanskrit drama, wrote Karnabhara, a one-act play with Karna as the protagonist. The playwright emphasised the remarkable and unique characteristics that could not be compared to anyone else. His defining characteristics had elevated him to the pinnacle of success. Unfortunately, Karna, the hero, died at the hands of fate.

Duryodhana expected the Kauravas to triumph through Karna. Karna felt the tremendous desire to reward those who had trusted in him. Karna was headed to the battlefield with full responsibility after Duryodhana's messenger arrived to inform him of the combat time. Karna, on the other hand, was in a sad mental state. Even Karna was surprised by this truth. Why did things turn out the way

they did? His sorrow was caused by his mother Kunti's request and his teacher Parasurama's curse, and he was aware of this. Karl, on the other hand, prepared for the war without losing his mental fortitude.

Karna was always respectful of the Brahmin. This was something Indra had realised. As a result, he pretended to be a Brahmin and asked Karna for the kavacakundalas in order to save his son Arjuna.

Karna's character is one that the reader will remember for a long time. His next sentence exemplifies the importance of almsgiving. "One should not accept anything in exchange for a donation," Karl(a) said, seemingly unconcerned about the ramifications of his actions. He accepts the weapon known as 'Vimala' just because he believes that the Brahmin should not be condemned. The renowned dramatist Bhasa enhanced Karna's persona with traits such as almsgiving, humility, and so on.

### 3. Mrthyunjaya by Shivaji Savanth-

Karna, who shone with Surya's grace, was the principal character in Shivaji Savanth's Marati novel Mrthyunjaya (Malayalam title Karnan). Karna was the one who had had the most impact on the author. From Karna's birth till his death, he detailed all of the events throughout his life. In his novel, he describes all of the circumstances and events that reveal his love for his mother, devotion to his father, love for his brothers, friendship and affection for children, comparison, willingness to donate, fearlessness, courage, thought about values, ideological belief purity of character, and so on. Duryodhana had assumed that Karna had lost his favour when he offered his kavackundalas to Indra. As a result, he had requested that Karna learn the Brahmastra from Drona. Karna, on the other hand, was adamant about not bowing his head in front of Drona, who was continually condemning him. Then Duryodhana replied that their friendship had ended for good. Karna was depressed and retaliated against Duryodhana. "Hey, king!" says the narrator. Please, don't make me leave; I'm eager to go there. Everything I haven't completed for myself will be completed for you. I'm going to stand up to Drama, who has always made me drown in a sea of contempt. It is, however, solely for you. Please choose the best time for me to begin my journey to meet Drorna. Please contact the astrologers for assistance. All of this is solely for the sake of our friendship." Even though he was treated with contempt, it was evident that Karna wanted to lose his friendship with Duryodhana. It is, however, solely for you. Please choose the best time for me to begin my journey to meet Drorna. Please contact the astrologers for assistance. All of this is solely for the sake of our friendship." Even though he was treated with contempt, it was evident that Karna wanted to lose his friendship with Duryodhana.

Karna was unable to sense genuine affection for the other, the honour of tradition, the pride of being a kshatriya, and so on. In this aspect, Karna felt frustrated as well. But the irritation, the scorn he was forced to hear from the people, even from great people, the cheating, and so on had never convinced him to change his course. This personality has remained unflappable even in the

most trying of circumstances. He had not been tempted, and he had followed the course that he considered to be correct. With courage and self-assurance, he had faced all human and heavenly trials. In his novel, Shivaji Savanth put Karna's storey into proper perspective.

He has given Karna a key role in this novel and has explained the entire Mahabharata storey in relation to Karna's storey. He examines Karna's personality in depth and explains it succinctly.

#### **4. Eni Njan Urangatte by P. K. Balakrishnan-**

The novel 'Eni Njan Urangatte,' authored by P. K. Balakrishnan, has the entire Karna narrative. He begins by telling a fictional storey about Draupadi. Karna's storey is assessed by his innovative concept. P. K. Balakrishnan follows Vyasa Bharata in shaping Karna's character. Krisna had compelled Karna to take over the kingdom as the Pandavas' eldest brother, including Yudhishthira. Kunti, his mother, had even invited him to apply for the job. Karna was advised to do so by Bhismam, who had to sleep in the bed of arrows. He was willing to put his own life on the line for that goal. When he found out about his brothers, though, he didn't have the heart to kill them and kept his cool. Karna's brothers threw arrows at him in order to murder him, but he simply shot arrows for self-defense since he was frightened the arrows would kill his brothers.

Karna was exceptional among Kshatriyas in terms of Kshatriya strength, might, sword practise, and morality. Karna never got hurt in combat and was well-known for donating alms and taking huge vows. When he handed up the great oaths, he was inviting death. When he presented the kavacakundalas to Indra, he was tempting death.

#### **5. Karnabhushana by Ulloor S. Parameswarayyar-**

Karnabhushana is a well-known lyric poetry written by Ulloor S. Parameswarayyar, a well-known Malayalam poet.

Ulloor introduces Karna in Karnabhushana by saying, "Karna, who was valiant and of a sacrificial disposition, was reigning the kingdom of Anga." As the day grew lighter, the Sun God arrived at the palace. Karna opened his eyes and bowed to the graceful person when the Sun God approached him. He humbly inquired as to what the Sun God desired, since he had a tendency of providing anything to anyone. He disclosed that he was Karna's father after blessing him.

He told the account of Karna's kavacakundalas, which were handed to him when he was born. Indra was willing to go to any length to ensure Arjuna's victory. He was supposed to dress up as a beggar and ask for the kavacakundalas. For his fame, Karna would donate the kavacakundalas. Even the celebrity was fleeting. Because fame is only valuable to those who are still living, it was of no value to Karna after he learned Surya's plan. Karna had told him that he didn't care who his parents were as long as he was faithful to King Duryodhana. It was the result of that remarkable experience he had while he was a child, when Duryodhana's benign character had made Karna his servant. Surya then asked him if he owed it to Duryodhana to keep his life in this world since he was so faithful to him. Karna knew the answers to these questions as well. He would value his inborn donating nature just as much as his gratitude for Duryodhana. The sin that had occurred solely as a result of Duryodhana's friendship would be calmed only as a result of this charitable

disposition. Karna had no apprehensions about dying. It was the result of that remarkable experience he had while he was a child, when Duryodhana's benign character had made Karna his servant. Surya then asked him if he owed it to Duryodhana to keep his life in this world since he was so faithful to him. Karna knew the answers to these questions as well. He would value his inborn donating nature just as much as his gratitude for Duryodhana. The sin that had occurred solely as a result of Duryodhana's friendship would be calmed only as a result of this charitable disposition. Karna had no apprehensions about dying.

Karna met Surya in his dream in the Mahabharata. Surya had entered Karna's chamber in Karnabhushana in the morning, opened his eyes, and told everything directly to Karna, who was bowing. Surya claimed to be the father of Karna in Karnabhushana.

Suryadeva had recognised that preventing Karna from donating the kavacakundalas was impossible. He had stated that in order to win the war, one should seize the Vel from Indra. Surya, who had disguised himself as a Brahmin, had arrived in Karnabhusana, and Karna was eager to give him anything he wanted. Surya, who was disguised as a Brahmin, advised him not to give the kavacakundalas to Indra.

## 6. Resume-

Characters based on the Mahabharata have always been popular among the masses because they emphasise the triumph of virtue over sin, morality over immorality, and justice over injustice, enriching art and literature regardless of time and location.

Literary writers are only concerned in evoking a few characters from the Mahabharata's thousands of characters created by Vedavyasa. In the Mahabharata, the great poet Vyasa depicted Kama as a beautiful guy. Krisna would not have to instruct Arjuna on the Gita if Karna, a very powerful person, had no role in the Mahabharata. Karna, who was conceived solely to satisfy the princess's curiosity, became the Mahabharatawar's focal point. Despite the fact that Karna was Surya's son, he was forced to live as Suta's son.

Karna belonged to the Pandavas' clan. However, he was obliged to side with the kauravas and attack his own brothers. He was an unfortunate individual. He was called a half-charioteer despite being the great charioteer. Even though he possessed the sacrificing nature, mental courage, ideal nature, and physical strength, he was condemned by everyone. Karna, who was conceived solely to satisfy the princess's curiosity, became the Mahabharatawar's focal point. Despite the fact that Karna was Surya's son, he was forced to live as Suta's son.

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