**Evolution of Suppressed in Palace of Illusions – Character Analysis of Karna**

**J. Christina Angel**

II M.A English literature, Nirmala College for Women, Coimbatore – 641018.

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**ABSTRACT:**

Facing various, unique characters in literature is contagious. selective consummate figures in certain fiction follow periods in history, impactful genre, talks about the dictatorship of leaders and grand description of nature also, about loss and gain. These type of Spectaculars fictions stands long by the faultless characters. This kind makes readers to find or connect themselves with it. The great idea of character building in literature is to mirror the human individualism and emotions. This particular fiction, *The Palace of Illusions* deeply explains about, one of the courageous character named karna with her detailed narrative techniques.

Key words: Suppression, Upper Class, Caste, Myths, Evolution, Law

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**Introduction:**

Fiction connects the mind of the readers and writers, all kind of characters made to reflect the emotions and an ideology of writers effectively. While people read fiction, readers witnesses the world through the characters eyes. It comes from the greater character making skill. Shakespeare’s characters stands as the noble proof to explain this ideology. Viola: *Romeo and Juliet*, Lady Macbeth: *Macbeth*, Iago. *Othello: Prospero, The Tempest* and so on. Shakespeare’s these characters can be indentify worldwide even today. It is quite impressive that, Indian fictional characters majorly discusses about the evolutionary ideas with a contact of daily practice of myths. One among the character is Karna, one of the major influential character in Indian mythology *Mahabharat*. He considers to be a saintly character in this great epic. Karna’s character aesthetically well narrated and developed in the notable contemporary fiction *The palace of Illusions* written by Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni 2008.

*Palace of Illusion* has received a great appreciation for giving a woman’s take on the timeless tale that is the *Mahabharata*, narrated by Panchali, wife of the five Pandava brothers. Author explains this novel from the birth of the Panchali and her typical life. In deep reading we could find the massive character called karna attracts the readers mind. He represents how great suppression transformed into evolution.

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**Clarified note on Karna:**

Peculiarly this contemporary fiction is one of the great mythology in India which is been practiced by Indian people years and years. It’s not very surprising that, people worshiping the God and Goddess in *Mahabharata*. Correspondingly this Indian literature has constructed such profound characters. Sometimes in fiction very view minor characters can create major impacts in readers life, this kind remains as flows in everyday life. Also it stands as internal. In *Palace of Illusion* also in *Mahabharata* literature had karna’s character.

Karna – also known as ‘Vasusena’ anga – raj, friend of Dhuryodhan. One of the main protagonist of the epic. He was the son of the sun God Surya and princess Kunti. He born by the boon of sage, he effectively suppressed by people and kingdom because of the suspicious birth. He badly discriminated by the concept of caste, division of caste, inequality and untouchability. Even though he was praised for his nobility and courage he was equally seen as down and unworthy in every area of his life, every reasons majorly concludes that, social institutions enforces the practices of discrimination, humiliation, exclusionary and exploitative against people belonging to certain social groups. Karna’s characters firmly goes with the suppressed and untouchable people in public forum. But this fiction not only centralize the suppression and humiliation of karna, rather she aesthetically conveys karna’s magnificence and need with her bold passages.

Karna basically disapproved everywhere by the unworthy reason of his suspicious birth. He get rejected by Panchali, Pandavas, royal court members also the great teacher Parasuraman.
Humiliations of Karna:

To explain the character called Karna author starts with his mystery of birth. Karna raised by the chariot driver ‘Adhiratha’ who belong to the lower caste. The incident were Karna became the king anga. In the competition of prince of royal family conducted by ‘Dronacharya’ royal preceptor of the Kauravas and pandavas, disapproved him to participate in the competition because of his class of birth. Karna cursed by drona’s word in the young age. Dhuriyodhan and karna became the symbol of the friendship after dhuriyodhan stood for karna without any claim of his birth; he made karna to the king of Anga. To show the gratitude towards dhuriyodhan he even let his life to go for his friend dhuriyodhan’s victory in ‘Kurushatwa war’.

‘Ability is more important than the accident of birth’ authors strong lines supports the emotion of karna even some people who undergoing the same rejections.

Even education denied to people who been addressed as lower class people. The ‘Dalits’ also known as the scheduled caste or untouchables, have experienced consistent denial to access to education since the 1850s. Karna profoundly mirroring the scheduled cast ideology. To clarify this concept readers

Could analysis the curse which was posted to karna by the sage and great teacher of ‘parasuram’. In order to pursue education and skill from the great teacher parasuram, karna concealed his social status and became an illegal activity to getting education hiding the birth status. It reveals in follow incident;

When karna and parasuram taking rest from under the trees, a mountain scorpion creeps from its hole land sitings of karna repeatedly on the thigh, drawing blood. The pain is intense but karna does not want to disturb his teacher. After parasuram woke parasuram realized that a brahmin could never have borne so much pain in silence. Only a Kshatriya was capable of that. He found the background of karna. Parasurm considered karna deceived him. He spelled disgraced curse ‘when you need the brahmastra the most, you’ll forget the mantra needed to call it up. What you’ve stolen from me will be of no use to you in the hour of your death’.

This unethical act which was considered as ethical act by sage. This action reflects even the present centuries, how people who considered as higher class effectively dominated fellow humans. They partly kept aside from the opportunities, education and work areas. This been proved in several incidents happened to karna,

In the celebration of swayamvar of Draupadi, the kings have brought their prince along with them, karna also wished to participate in swayamvar to show his arching skills. But ‘Dhristadymna’ brother of drupadi took step forward and said, ‘renowed through you for your skill karna, my sister cannot have as, her suitor a man of a low caste. Therefore I humble request you to return to your seat’. In front of everyone he greatly ashamed by dhuri.

Even drupadi asks heart breaking question, that breaks karna’s heart into pieces ‘do you know your father’s name? All these humiliations happened only because of the lower birth status and the name of caste. Till the death of karna it leads him to face tragic emotional death. In India around 240 people are named as dalit or an untouchable person who belongs to the downtrodden, oppressed, and socially exploited group. Backward castes are not only deprived of basic opportunities but also tortured and exploited by the higher classes.

Evolution of Karna:

There are so many praised characters who played major role in mahabarat like, Krishna, drupadi, arjun, other pandava brothers also dhuriyodhan and so many… all these characters has innumerable power, upholds, legibility in their circumstances throughout. Karna the only character can be describe as the ‘self-made’ soldier who was born to accomplish glory and majesty.

There is a mythological story in mahabarat to explain karna’s immense sense of charity and nobility, where karna gives ‘Golden mountain Managa’ to the needful inn honor to full fill the hunger of man. Even Arjun who consider karna as foe, stunned by his nobility and rational thinking. Karna literally praised by common people that other global characters in mahabarata failed to achieve. Karna also stands the symbol of the friendship, who stood with dhuriyodhan and offered his life. Karna kept his words till the words became reality to everyone. He is the first person who achieved people’s heart and durupadi’s heart too. In the book palace of illusions we could visibly see that, after panchali rejects karna she happened to marry arjun, fallows she also marrying other pandava brothers. She get suffered lot in her mother-in-law’s place also she humiliated by dhuriyodhan’s shameful act in king’s court. She often regrets the way she treated karna. She would have never been suffered if she married karna, she often thinks ‘karna would never have let you down like this, I did notlush it’.

Many admired karna for his generosity, karna also mightyer than arjun who fought for his friend dhuriyodhan. He left his armor and earrings, weapons according to God’s will. Throughout the mahabarata karna never changed his generosity, kindness, gratitude and loyalty towards his friend. Karna in full, clarified that people who undergone uncountable humiliations, left hunger and homeless by the society. When suppressed people gradually becomes notable figures in society the could connect people who came from the same condition, these kind of revolutions became history and breaks the restrictions.

One of the notable figures in revolution of untouchable was Ambedkar, the movement was launched in 1956- it rejected Hinduism, challenged the caste system in India and promoted the rights of the Dalit community. The person who suppressed by the society later headed the committee drafting the constitution of India from the constitution Assembly Debate. Periyar, Bharathiyar who firmly rejected the dominance of higher class people.

Karna in mahabarata provokes people to claim justice to the group who suffering from the same condition. He becomes as an emotion and travels to all set of readers and lasting so long.
Conclusion:

When a person who completes reading Mahabharata could feel the strong emotion with tears eyes will conclude that, Karna was the unnoticed hero of this myth who can crush the heart of the readers. It is an undisputed fact that he is character became the soul of this epic. Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni skillfully narrated the need of the Karna character in her fiction. As Jesus Christ says, ‘the stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the of the corner’ mark 12:10. It refers all remarkable guidelines comes from the suppresses society. They after play very demanding roles in society as Karna.

Work cited:
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- Bible – mark 12.1
- https://youtu.be/TC5kAtRlz8