



# Furrow of Love: Urmila's Hope through Her Journey in Kavita Kane's *Sita's Sister*

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## Abstract:

The epic tale of the Ramayana continues to have a profound influence on humans based on the philosophical dimensions, which have been cultivating our brains on a worldwide basis in the majority of Indian mythology women character is known for their determination. Women are portrayed with supporting roles, but despite this, they exhibit an optimism and moral value of strength throughout the epic. Kavitha Kane belongs to the new era of authors who skilfully retell and re-voiced these ancient stories, breathing new life into familiar narratives and characters. In *Sita's Sister*, Kane takes us back to the Ramayana through the brave and resolute eyes of Urmila, a marginalized figure who has never been given the respect and consideration she deserves. Kane has given Urmila's modest personality a voice. This article aims to explore the furrow of love, which represents Urmila's journey and also depicts the broader thematic study that examines love, sacrifice, and hope within the framework of Indian mythology. This symbolizes the reflection on every woman to face hardship with grace and find courage in the development of enduring their strength and capacity to challenge social norms with desire and anticipation, which in turn helps to shape changing attitudes and expectations in society by hopefulness.

**Keywords:** forgotten heroine voice, hope, mythology, retelling, urmila's journey.

## Introduction

Ancient myths have mythological women which represent a variety of archetypes and virtues, each of which reflects the shade and complex nature of the human experience. They are the manifestations of both light and shade, the weavers of fate, and the keepers of wisdom. Figures such as the Hindu Kali or the Greek Medusa embody the Shadow part of the feminine, signifying chaos, devastation, and change as a natural part of life. These characters, who are frequently misinterpreted or feared or even depicted as life savers, serve as an example of the cycles of creation and dissolution and the dualities present in life. Goddesses, heroines and other mystical entities are examples of mythological women, and they all add to the rich heritage of storytelling that examines the complex essence of womanhood. They provide timeless insights about the enduring traits of power, compassion, and the boundless balance between creation and destruction. They also challenge society's standards and provoke contemplation on the human condition.

Urmila plays an important role in the traditional Indian epic Ramayana, her story is frequently overshadowed by prominent characters such as Rama, Sita, and Lakshmana. Lakshmana's wife, Urmila, possesses a character in which she is characterised by resilience, sacrifice, and loyalty. Even though she is not visibly featured in the epic, her tale is rich with meaning. Unlike other female characters, she is known as unsung heroine known for her emotional outbursts, where she exemplifies serene dignity and grace even in the face of obstacles. Her strength is increased by her dignified manner, which also makes her an admirable person. In Valmiki's Ramayana, Urmila as an individual character symbolizes traditional values, self-sacrificing, and the unwavering strength of people who stand by their

loved ones in the face of responsibility and hardship. Urmila's character incorporates to complexity and richness, even though her position may not be as important as that of Sita or Rama.

Kavita Kane's depiction of Urmila in *Sita's Sister* (2014), gives readers a more in-depth emotional and intellectual connection with the character by providing a more modern, feminist, and independent viewpoint. She also elevated revolutionized Indian mythology by introducing feminism as its root. The novel depicts conventional wisdom and throws light on the forgotten tales of women in the classical epics from Urmila's perspective.

Urmila is the youngest child of Mithila's King Janak and Queen Sunaina. From early childhood, Sita, Janak's eldest daughter, and her cousins Mandavi and Shrutakeerti were very close and they lived together in Mithila Palace. Four princess sisterhood and their bond were inseparable from being sisters to sister-in-law throughout their journey till the end, they were "well-versed in the Vedas and the Upanishads, politics, music, art and literature" (Kane 9). Women are encouraged to make decisions for themselves in the city of Mithila, which is frequently described as the only community that respected the equality and intellectual independence of women. Urmila and her sisters, grew up in this progressive setting, serve as excellent examples of the freedom and intellectual independence that women in Mithila are granted for their wishful lives. Her trait depicts the unwavering support which extends beyond personal affection. Sometime her emotion explosion makes her lost, which makes to think as unimportant and trivial. According to Kane, "I have always known what secondary is- I have grown up with it..." (73). Even though with the full-fledged rights, at some point she loses her hope which symbolises the self-discrimination where her aspiration falls. Urmila's character is portrayed in a way that suggests a conflict between her personal goals, aims and social expectations in her lifetime, adding a layer of uniqueness to her character. This perspective on her issues, motivated by a strong desire, is especially useful for women negotiating social conventions and personal aspirations. She is believed to be the epitome of every woman in the world, exemplifying the pathway for women to lead their lives with a light at the end of the tunnel. From an early age, she showcases such characteristics as personal development, well-being, and overcoming obstacles. Her journey of faith and journey of hope emerges as a central theme in *Sita's Sister*. It deliberately focuses attention and highlights Urmila's obstacles, sacrifices, and successful outcomes of her journey as she challenges social expectations and overcomes difficulties placed in her path. As Urmila overcomes struggles, she motivates with her unwavering persistence, by which she depicts her story through the exploration of aspiration.

### **Unbound Mind and Furrow of Love**

In India, the traditional notion of women being linked to men which led to significant inequality and other conflicts in them, in which women often face challenges in leading their lives. Women face many obstacles and various provocations during their journey, in which inclination and endeavours of hope lead their pathway to being strong in life. The idea of hope serves as a motivating factor in every woman. In this narrative, women play a key role, and Urmila continuously struggles in her quest for identity, encountering much turmoil. she also depicted the powerful voices of women on transformational journeys. When Sita, Rama, and Lakshman prepare to leave for their fourteen-year exile, Sita's younger sisters remain in the doomed Ayodhya palace with heart breaking emotions. Kausalya, Kaikeyi, Sumitra, and others in Ayodhya's palace observe the sudden disappearance of joy, optimism, and smiles. "It was the first time they were going to be separated in all of their eighteen years together and the pain of separation was almost incomprehensible now" (Kane 153), which conveys the depth of the emotional pain associated with the separation, where her dream shattered and even though she accepted the reality and responsibility without giving up her rights.

"Urmila realized that she had had no time to grieve his absence. She was lost: it was like wandering through a skewed landscape in a state of agonized disorientation, lost and clueless. She was rushing from one chore to another, her mind blank yet chaotic" (Kane 179). This exemplifies the deep emotional turmoil, Urmila experienced a reflexive reaction that flowed out as a devastating wave of agony though she felt betrayed by her loved ones, only marginalization, isolation, and betrayal held up in her life. Among the tears and anguish, Urmila stands out for her extraordinary power, anticipating the future with resilience. Despite being a neglected woman, she exemplifies unwavering faith, accepting reality with silence, grace, and dignity. These characteristics provide her with strength, helping her to stay optimistic while she pursues her objectives.

She with the furrow of love, made a strong decision as being an optimistic woman "welcoming this opportunity to see a new world" (Kane 140), which showcases the lights and principles of dharma where women should lead the pathway of men and men should follow women in vice versa, even though facing many twists and turn in their lifetime, women and men should be capable enough to show their true colours. Urmila in this, started delving into taking care of the palace and started exploring the wave of passion. Her fourteen years of her husband's exile illustrated promises and desire to travel with a true intention of the journey of a dream. Her stories paint vivid portraits of resilience, as she navigates challenges with an unwavering spirit and turbulence, she also rebels against social expectations. Each journey becomes a tapestry of empowerment. Her journey of hope elucidates being a role model for twenty first century women. During this challenging period, Urmila's hope becomes a resilient companion, that promotes her through the challenges

of isolation and insecurity. Even though the relationship stung, her eternal affection for Lakshmana remains, even in his physical absence, where hope strengthens with time, deriving power from memories and promises shared with Lakshmana. Despite the physical distance, her love for him grows everlastingly, strengthened by the enduring relationship they have. Urmila's hope becomes a source of inner strength, enabling her to maintain a connection with Lakshmana despite the limits of both space and time. Because through her desire she developed undying loyalty, the strength of supreme love by self- emancipating. Throughout her journey, faith and desire overcome the constraints of the real world, forming an unbreakable bond with the one she loves.

### Conclusion

This article elucidates that Urmila's exploration extends her narrative, and shapes changing attitudes and expectations in society, which influence the perceptions of women's strength from the traditional period to this twenty first century contemporary period. The character of Urmila depicts the redefining role and fostering of a more egalitarian society, where women in this century, continue to navigate diverse landscapes, facing challenges and triumphs in their personal and professional lives. Like Urmila, modern women are frequently paving their routes to strength and self-discovery their life through endurances. They accept the complexity of their identities and balance their responsibilities as mothers, companions, workers, and people with different aims and perspectives. Urmila's use of various mediums to express her essence of mirrors, in the diverse ways contemporary women should articulate their identities with anticipation. From breaking barriers in traditionally male-dominated fields to advocating for social change, women today leverage a spectrum of mediums such as education, art, technology, and activism to shape their narratives through hopefulness.

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