

An Intersection of Myth and Modernity in ‘Saraswati’s Gift’ by Kavita Kane

Asst. Prof. Dipti Pethe¹, Dr. Mukul Joshi²

¹Research Scholar, Head, Department of English, Indrayani Mahavidyalaya Pune.

²Head, Department of English, Abeda Inamdar Senior College of Arts, Science and Commerce, Pune

Abstract- ‘Saraswati’s Gift’ a novel by Kavita Kane seamlessly weaves together the realms of mythology and modernity. It creates a rich tapestry that combines ancient wisdom with modern relevance. The present Article explores how Kavita Kane’s writing throws light on the mythological figure of Saraswati. The Hindu goddess of wisdom, knowledge, art and music. Kavita Kane situates goddess Saraswati within the context of contemporary challenges and ambitions. The article navigates the way in which the novel revisits traditional mythology to study contemporary societal issues such as self-identity, gender discrimination and thrust of creative and intellectual fulfillment. By intertwining ancient mythological themes with contemporary struggles, Kavita Kane not only strengthens the cultural significance of Saraswati but also provides deep insights into the eternal power of mythology in understanding and shaping the human experience in modern period. This article focuses on the novel’s contribution to the 21st century literature and its role in promoting a harmony between the past and the present. It also emphasizes the importance of mythological narratives in current scenario.

Keywords: Mythology, Modernity, Saraswati, Reinterpretation.

INTRODUCTION

Kavita Kane, a prolific Indian writer well known for her reinterpretation of Indian mythological stories from a modern perspective. ‘Saraswati’s Gift’ (2021) is another masterpiece that weaves ancient myth with modern themes. It offers readers a rich variety of stories that resonate with both ancient and current context. In this article the researcher will explore how Kavita Kane masterfully intertwines myth and modernity. The researcher will also focus on the importance of Saraswati in both realms and the insight we can gain from this intersection.

In Indian Mythology Saraswati holds a prominent place. She is Hindu goddess of wisdom, knowledge, art and music. Her stories stated in ancient texts like the Puranas, the Vedas and Epics. (Kantha, 2022) These stories signify her role as the immortal source

of creativity and enlightenment. Saraswati is a name derived from the Sanskrit word ‘Saras’ which means flow. This etymology is vital because it highlights her alliance with the flow of wisdom and knowledge. The traditional pictography of Saraswati shows her in white saree symbolizes her serenity. She is always portrayed with a book Veena and a Swan or peacock. The swan or peacock always portrayed alongside her symbolizes understanding while the Veena signifies the harmony of Arts and Science. The books signify the knowledge and learning. In the Rigveda Saraswati is depicted not only as a river but also as a powerful goddess who blesses her devotees with knowledge and wisdom. She is invoked in the hymns as the bestower of truth as the source of purity and one who enlightens. Her double identity as both a goddess and a river symbolize the confluence of divine and natural knowledge.

KANE’S NARRATIVE APPROACH

1) Reimagining Myth with a Modern Lens

Kavita Kane well known for her technique to reinterpret ancient mythology. She presents mythological stories in a way that captures the attention of contemporary readers. In ‘Saraswati’s Gift’ Kavita Kane focuses on the character of Saraswati, exploring her importance beyond the traditional narratives. (Kane Kavita, 2021) By doing so she not only admires the conventional tales but also retells them to reflect contemporary sensibilities.

Kavita Kane’s Saraswati is not just an Immortal figure her portrayal goes beyond the divine figure Kane depicts Saraswati as a multifaceted character with emotions and conflicts confronting with internal dilemma and challenges that resembles with modern experiences. Kane’s this perspective humanizes the Goddess that make Saraswati more relatable to the modern readers. She enables readers

to connect with the Saraswati's character are on a personal level who may see reflection of their own struggles and achievements in Saraswati's story. By focusing on modern issue like seeking of knowledge, gender equality and the harmony between tradition and progress. Kavita Kane makes the ancient mythology more relatable to modern readers. Saraswati's journey in Kane's novel is noticed by personal growth and internal conflict.(Chavhan, 2023) Her Encounters with other characters both mortal and divine, showcase her understanding of wisdom and its function in different context. Saraswati's relationship with other divine characters and human characters adds layers to her persona. Her Encounter with them reflect modern relationship, emphasizing themes of mutual respect, collaboration and mentorship.

2) Themes Bridging Myth and Modernism

The pursuit of knowledge is the central theme in both Myth and modern context. Saraswati symbolizes the timeless Pursuit of enlightenment, understanding and wisdom. In modern world where information is abundant yet true wisdom can be ambiguous Kane's narrative navigates the importance of wisdom and deep learning. Her novel describes how wisdom and insight can empower society and individual by focusing on the critical thinking and application of wisdom. She maintains balance between ancient wisdom and contemporary education system. (Dirghangi, 2020) In this digital age the wealth of information can be abundant. Kane's depiction of Saraswati's wisdom signifies the need for judgement and the ability to understand this information to find true knowledge. Her narrative always focuses on the empowerment through wisdom. Her Saraswati's gift is not just a stock of knowledge but the ability to use it wisely. This theme resembles strongly in a contemporary context, where knowledge and education can be prominent tools for personal and societal changes. Saraswati as an embodiment of wisdom and knowledge portrayed as a symbol of women empowerment. Kane's narrative corresponds this ancient symbolism to contemporary feminist ideas, encouraging for the women empowerment through self-awareness and education. Empowerment through wisdom also invokes ethical and social responsibility. Saraswati's character arc motivates readers to implement their knowledge for the greater good, focusing on the modern concerns about the virtuous use of information and Technology.

Creativity and art are inherent to mythological persona of Saraswati, Kane depicts that how these elements go beyond the time and show their significance in modern society. The novel focuses on the evolutionary power of art, that can be seen as a divine gift in modern society. Kane's novel emphasizes the relevance of creative innovation and expression. Saraswati's alliance with the art highlights how art and creativity can propel and foster a real understanding of the world. From ancient times art has always been a vital medium for cultural and social change. By linking Saraswati's divine role with contemporary artistic endeavors, Kane emphasizes on the remarkable impact of art in shaping society.

3) Modern Reflections on Saraswati's Myth

Pursuit of knowledge and women's empowerment are the most remarkable contemporary reflections of Saraswati's Myth. In various ways Saraswati is portrayed as the ideal of well-educated and empowered women Kane's representation Aligns with the modern movements encouraging for women empowerment and gender equality through education. Kane's narrative can be seen as an analysis on the requirement for educational reforms and open access to education, particularly for the marginalized communities and women Saraswati's knowledge and wisdom is presented as universal right not a concession. Saraswati is an inspiring mentor and role model for women pursuing education and empowerment. Kane's representation of Saraswati as a teacher and mentor emphasized the importance of mentorship in professional and personal development. Kane's depiction also emphasizes the harmony between tradition and innovation. (Bhattacharjee, 2017) Saraswati, while deeply rooted in ancient tradition, incorporates principles that inspire innovation and progress. This harmony is important in the modern world. While embracing change, respecting heritage is equally important for growth. Kane's narrative highlights the importance of respecting and understanding one's intellectual and culture heritage. Saraswati's teaching offers valuable and timeless insights that remain important today. At the same time the story encourages reader to embrace innovation and change. Saraswati's wisdom is dynamic growing with time and assimilate with new opportunities and challenges. Kane demonstrate the significance of mythology in contemporary society by reinterpreting Saraswati's story. These mythological

stories when observe through a contemporary lens, offer important lessons and insights that can guide reader in the complex contemporary world.

4) Literary Techniques and Story Telling

Kane uses reach metaphor and symbolism to intertwine myth and modernity. each character and object in the story carry symbolic meaning for example the river Saraswati symbolizes the flow of knowledge and the passage of time interlinking past, present and future. Kane's use of metaphorical language adds layer to the narrative. It allows readers to understand connections between mythological and modern languages. This narrative technique enhances the readers understanding and engagement with the story. Kane's narrative style is both accessible and lyrical. she blends the poetic quality of mythological story telling with a modern tone. This unique style makes the ancient stories more relevant to the modern reader yet, it preserves their mythical essence. This harmony is a key to her success in reinterpreting mythological stories. The dialogue in *Saraswati's gift* reflects both the divine and human aspects of the character. This duality enhances the narrative enabling the characters expressions and emotions relatable to modern readers. The communication between Saraswati and other Gods explores subtle philosophical and ethical questions. (Sarwate, 2020) On the other hand, her interactions with human characters reflect factual insights and guidance in the story. The Human characters throughout their interactions with Saraswati achieve perspective and wisdom these human and divine connections explore how divine wisdom can exhibit in everyday life and decisions.

5) Impact and Reception

Saraswati's gift has been appreciated by critics. They praised Kane's skill to give new and fresh perspective to the ancient Myths. Her subtle portrayal of Saraswati and the perfect blend of mythology and modernity have been particularly praised. Literary critics have pointed out Kane's technique in blending rigorous research with creative story telling. (NAYAK & PANIGRAHI, n.d.) Her skill to maintain the purity of the original myth, while introducing contemporary elements has been particularly appreciated.

CONCLUSION

Kavita Kane's '*Saraswati's Gift*' reflects the timeless appeal of Saraswati and her significance in

both ancient and modern context. By reinterpreting *Saraswati's Story*, Kane invites the readers to examine the depths of empowerment, wisdom and creativity, that Saraswati manifests. The portrayal of Saraswati by Kane continues to enlighten and inspire readers. This timeless appeal makes sure that her story remains significant across generations.

The intersection of mythology and modernity in *Saraswati's Gift* teaches valuable lessons to modern readers, it focuses on the enduring power of wisdom, the relevance of creativity and the transformative potential of knowledge. Through this novel Kane encourages every reader to maintain balance in our lives, like Saraswati the Goddess herself. By focusing on the themes of empowerment and education, Kane's story also encourages readers to consider the wider social impact of their actions and decisions. The novel serves as a call to implement knowledge and wisdom for the betterment of society. Kavita Kane's work sets a unique standard for reinterpretation of mythological stories. It demonstrates how these stories can be revitalized to match with modern themes. *Saraswati's Gift* is a testimonial to the relevance of mythology and its power to motivate and enlighten across ages. Kavita Kane's innovative narrative set the benchmark for future authors to explore ancient narrative with new perspective Kane's effort shows mythological stories can be adopted to reflect contemporary values and concerns without harming their original essence. Her work focuses on the fact that myths are not remnant of the past but living stories that can guide and inspire in the present and future also. By intertwining the rich tapestry of ancient mythology with the complications of contemporary life *Saraswati's Gift* not only pays tribute to the wisdom of the past but also shows the path forward. It encourages readers to achieve the gift of empowerment, wisdom, creativity and knowledge in their own lives.

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