

Akram Youth

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Dada Bhagwan Parivar



Karna

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Editorial

Friends,

Our favorite epic, Mahabharat does not have only one main character or villain. Instead, many main characters of Mahabharat have become immortal in history due to their unique personality. In the previous edition, we learned some interesting things about Pitamah Bhishma. In the same way, we are going to talk about another such powerful character, the brave warrior, Karna.

Infinite contradictory aspects of the life of the brave warrior Karna make his personality more interesting. Even though he was a Kshatriya prince, Karna had to endure the insults and taunts as the son of a charioteer throughout his entire life. On one hand, Karna was considered at

fault for consenting to Draupadi's insult in the courtroom and unlawfully murdering Abhimanyu in war. Whereas, on the other hand, no one even comes close to his philanthropy and faithful personality. Even though he took the side of the unrighteous Kauravas, he is viewed as a respectable and great warrior in the eyes of everyone. What is the secret behind it? Just like me, are you also eager to learn more about this brave warrior? So, let's read without wasting time...let's understand what we should learn from some known and unknown facts of Duryodhan's best friend, Angraj Karna...

- Dimplebhai Mehta

Hello friends ...

You're all on Instagram, aren't you?

Well, I am not. But if I were, my Instagram profile would be something like this.

"I am constantly flowing ... but I am not a river."

"I have no beginning or end ... I am permanent!"

"I am the smallest part of the time cycle."

Tell me, who am I? ...did you recognize me?

Yes ... Got it!

I Am Time!

There are so many things in my heart. Today I am going to talk to you about a unique warrior, whose name is ... "Karna"!

The Great Warrior Karna

Karna is an important character in the Mahabharata epic!

Pleased with the service and devotion of princess Kunti, Maharshi Durvasa blessed her with a divine mantra. By worshiping this mantra, she could get a son, as per her wish, from the celestial beings.

“Can this mantra really give me a son?” Out of curiosity, Kunti worshiped the Sun deity, and lo and behold! Suryaputra (Child of the Sun) Karna incarnated from her womb! Now, if the unmarried Kunti became a mother of a child, people would condemn her. So, out of fear and in an attempt to hide her mistake, Kunti placed the baby in a basket and let it flow down the river as soon as she had given birth.

Meanwhile, Adhirath and his wife Radha were longing for a son. Seeing a baby flowing down the river, their hearts overflowed with affection, and they brought the baby home. From birth, the glorious prince, who had a shield and earrings from the Sun deity, was brought up in the house of a simple charioteer and grew up to be known as 'Radhey'.



Time is of the essence!

It is mentioned in the scriptures that Karna will be the twentieth Tirthankar Lord of the coming set of twenty-four Tirthankar Lords!

So, let us see what happened in Karna's life ... that made him a great man. It is a long story, so let's go to Starbucks and talk while having some hot chocolate.



So, we reached Starbucks! Hey ... what are Ayush and Harsh doing here?

Akrampedia



Name: Ayush Mehta

Age: 22 years

Ayush: Harsh, there are only three days left for the drama and I am not able to get into the character of Karna.

Harsh: Why, what happened?

Ayush: Dude, I find this role of Karna difficult. One has to get into the character first to be able to act it out, but I can't seem to understand Karna.

Harsh: Why? What is so difficult about that?

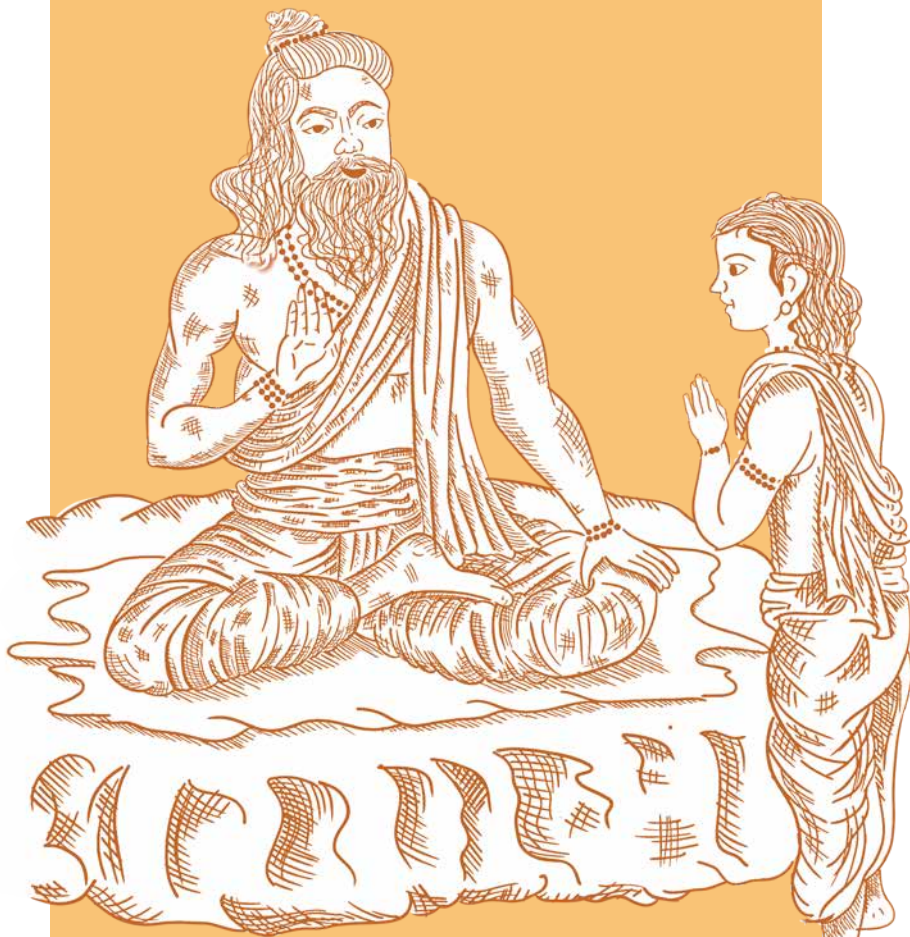
Ayush: Looks like you don't know Karna's story. Wait, let me tell you the story of my script.

By assuming the false identity of a Brahmin's son, Karna was studying the art of weapons from Guru Parshuram. Guru Parashuram also had a lot of love and faith in Karna and was teaching him the best art of weapons. One day he was lying down with his head on Karna's lap. At that time, a big wasp came flying by and sat on Karna's thigh and stung him badly. Karna was in great pain but continued to suffer without moving, with the intention of not disturbing his guru's sleep. His foot began to bleed. Guru Parashuram woke up as soon as he felt the hot blood. Instead of being happy with his service and endurance, the guru became very angry.

"You are not a Brahmin. A Brahmin cannot have such endurance or patience. Tell me what caste you are from."

Karna revealed his identity as the son of a charioteer.

Karna's Arduous Test!



Upon hearing this, Guru Parshuram immediately cursed Karna saying, **"You have learned from me through deception, so whenever you need this knowledge the most, you will forget it!"**

Harsh: Wow, such discipline in the presence of his guru! And even though he did so much, but for having lied just once, he was given such a big punishment?

Ayush: A lie?... this is called betrayal, Harsh... that too, a deceitful one.

Harsh: Hmm... but Karna must have been very distraught.

Ayush: Yes man. But despite all this, Karna's reverence for his guru did not diminish at all. Whereas we...?

Harsh: We skip classes... make fun of our teachers... we do mischief during class ... argue with the teachers, talk back... we do all of this.

Ayush: So, is all this disrespecting the teacher? And is that the reason why I am not able to play this role?

Harsh: Hmm... let me show you a video. Someone had a question just like this.

Questioner: My question is that, is there a connection between breaking the rules in college and disrespecting the teacher? For example, there are rules in college regarding the usage of a phone in class, not eating during lectures, not filling anyone's proxy, not talking back to the teacher, submitting everything on time, etc. If we don't follow all these rules, is this disrespecting our guru? Pujiyashree, disrespect is a big word, whereas all these are very small things. So, please explain it to me.

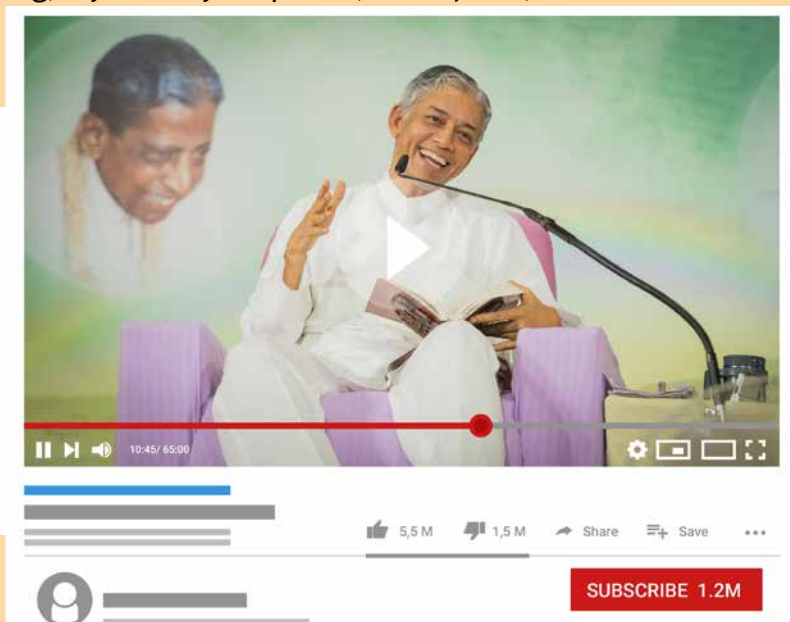
Pujiyashree: Do you go to college to study or ...? And do those people give you breaks or not?

Questioner: They do give breaks.

Pujiyashree: So, we can eat before or after the class, right? And you can use the phone before or after class if you want?

Questioner: Yes.

Pujiyashree: So, if we are going to college to study, then pay attention to that. While studying, if you use your phone, make jokes, make fun of someone, or eat food,



will the teacher be happy?

Questioner: No.

Pujiyashree: Right now, you are listening to the satsang with concentration, putting food aside! This is a matter of Gnan and that is a matter of worldly interaction and learning, so it is certainly considered disrespectful. If we keep on making small mistakes, then we will not hesitate in making bigger mistakes. We are going there to learn, so we should study sincerely. If there is time before and after, have fun, be happy, but don't make hurtful jokes towards someone.

Questioner: But Pujiyashree, our intention is not to disrespect our teacher. It's just

that sometimes due to laziness, or to have fun, we break the rules.

Pujyashree: Yes, but right now while you are asking me a question, if I look around randomly and don't listen to you, would you like it? If I am talking to you and you keep on eating chocolates, switching on the TV, then will we enjoy this conversation?

Questioner: No.

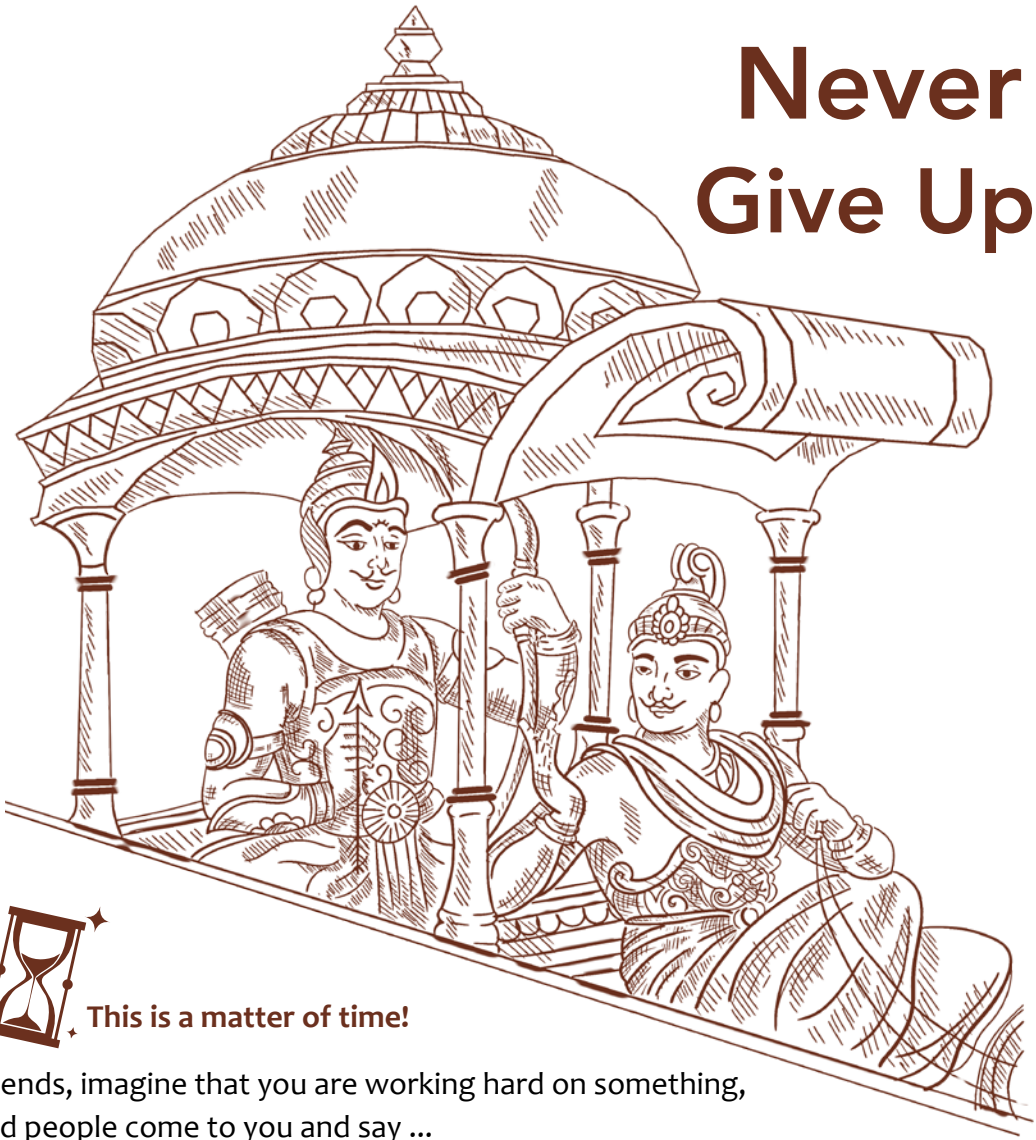
Pujyashree: So, if the teacher is teaching and we keep on doing other things, how disrespectful is that! Did you know, knowledge flows from the top to the bottom? So, if we want to acquire knowledge, we have to be humble. If you do mischief, eat or drink, use the phone, joke around, then you are being disrespectful. Then, you will not be able to grasp a single word of knowledge. On the contrary, if you try to learn anything else, there will be a veil of ignorance that would have come over you, such that you will not be able to grasp anything. You will feel that 'Why am I not able to learn anything?' The reason is, you committed an offence and thus created obstructions.

Whether you understand or not, sit quietly and pay attention while learning. Then, gradually you will understand, and the veil of ignorance will break. Pray to the teacher's pure Soul, **'O pure Soul! Please grace me so that I can understand everything that the teacher is teaching.'** Then, you will understand everything with less effort. And, if you misuse or make jokes or be disrespectful while the teacher is teaching, you will incur two losses. One, you wasted your time and disrespected the teacher, and a veil of ignorance will come over you for learning new knowledge. So, you should not do this. Instead, of that, eat or use your phone before and after the class. Study with full concentration while in the class. If you study with concentration, then you will have to study less at the time of the exams!



Ayush: Oh, I see ... now I understand exactly what reverence is! And I also understand that there are two things to learn from Karna's life. One is what to do and the other is what not to do. Now, I think I will be able to play the role of Karna properly.

Never Give Up!



This is a matter of time!

Friends, imagine that you are working hard on something, and people come to you and say ...

"You're worthless, you don't know anything!"

"What kind of people come here!"

"How many times do I have to tell you the same thing?" Don't you understand?"

"Compared to you, others perform much better, you're a failure!"

"You will never be able to do this!"

... then, will your enthusiasm last?

Can you calmly sit and do your work?

Will you finish your work or leave it in the middle and run away?

Let's see what happened in Karna's life.

This is an event from when the war of Mahabharata started. By deceit, Duryodhan got King Shailya, who was on the side of the Pandavas, to come on his side, and made him the charioteer of Karna. Repenting for his mistake, King Shailya went to the Pandavas to apologize and told the Pandavas to ask for a promise in return. The Pandavas asked King Shailya for a promise to break Karna's enthusiasm by repeatedly insulting him in battle. So, to keep his promise, King Shailya repeatedly insulted Karna in the battlefield!

- ‘ Even though you have become a king, you can't say you are of the Kshatriya (warrior) clan. After all, you are just the son of a charioteer!’
- ‘ You only got a curse from your guru, while Arjun found a guru who made him a great archer.’
- ‘ Arjun will definitely win because Vasudev Sri Krishna is his charioteer. Your defeat in the war is certain!’
- ‘ Arjun is Arjun, there is no archer like him. Even your shield and earrings will not work against Arjun, Radhey.’
- ‘ Even though there are only five Pandavas, they are better than a hundred Kauravas!’

After listening to all of this, Karna started to distrust the King of Shailya, but he remained calm. Despite hearing these insulting words, which would shatter anyone's self-confidence, Karna's self-confidence did not waver at all. On the contrary, he remained determined to give Arjun an equal fight in the battlefield.



This is how the times have changed!

Friends, think for a moment... When negative circumstances arose in your work that broke your enthusiasm, were you able to contribute 100% to the work or did you give up and quit?

Kauntey Or Radhey?



Nowadays, everyone seems to have forgotten the word 'Maa' or 'Mother'. Everyone just says 'Mommy'.

This is how the times have changed my friend!

"Mommy!"

What do you remember when you hear this word?

Yes! Love, a smiling face, a warm lap, mom's love, mom's homemade food ... and mom's bickering too! Right?

We all know how much our mom does for us, don't we? Still, we often do not appreciate her. On the contrary, we get angry and hurt her, and sometimes we even talk back to her.

Friends, do you know? Karna has many names. Karna, Suryaputra, Angraj, Vayusena, Danveer, Radhey...

But he preferred only to be known as Radhey. Why?

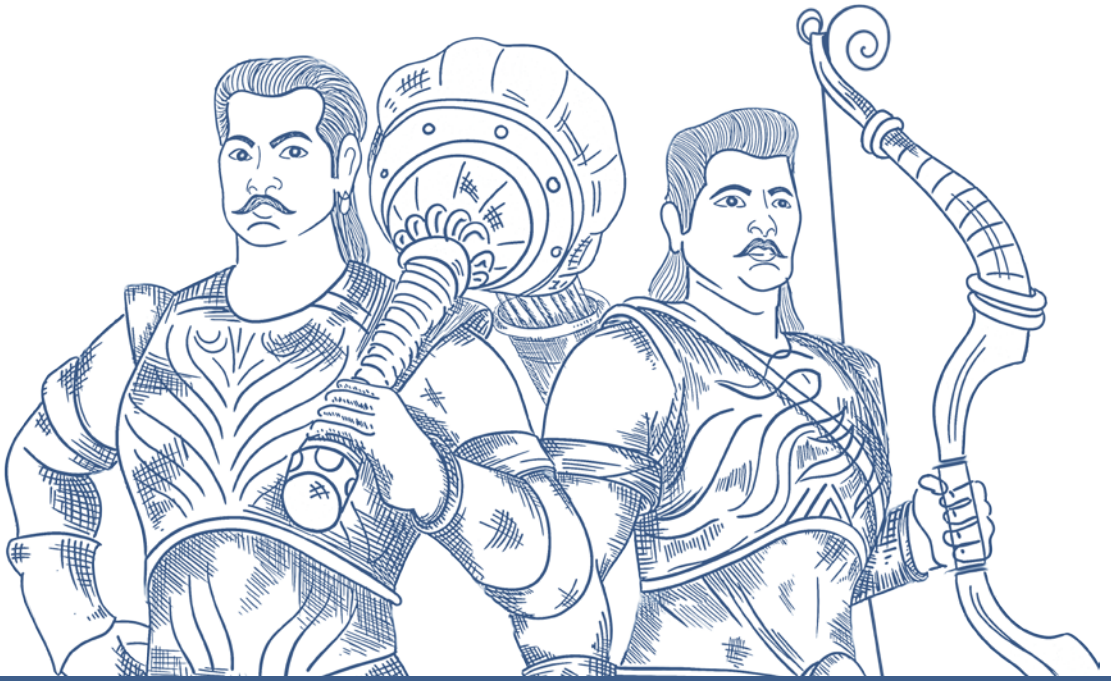
Because that name was associated with his mother. There were not one, but two mothers in Karna's life. One was his birth mother, Kunti and the other was his foster mother Radha, who raised him.

When Karna found out that his birth mother was not Radha but queen Kunti, his love and respect for his foster mother Radha did not diminish. Karna realized that the respect and social acceptance he wanted would be obtained as 'Kauntey' (Son of Kunti). Yet he wholeheartedly preferred to be known as 'Radhey' (Son of Radha).

At that time, the son's name was based on the child's father's name. The sons of king 'Pandu' were called 'Pandavas'. Descendants of king 'Kuru' were called 'Kauravas'. Even today, our father's name is placed after our name. But Karna always identified himself by the name of his mother, Radha, instead of his father's name, Adhirath.



This shows how much respect Karna had for his mother and how important she was to him!



Friend or Foe ?



Karna's character has been the most tragic of all the other characters in Mahabharata.

His birth mother abandoned him at an early age, and despite being a prince, he lived his life as the son of a charioteer. Due to this, he constantly endured humiliation and contempt from society, which was not easy. That is why his hatred, envy, and thoughts of revenge kept growing towards Arjun.

Amidst this, Karna got the company of Duryodhan as a friend, and he remained loyal to that friendship till the end. If Duryodhan had not come into his life, then the circumstance of war may not have arisen in Karna's life.

However, this is all a matter of time!

Let me give you a small example of Karna's friendship.

When Duryodhan was leaving Hastinapur with his army for Kurukshetra, his wife Bhanumati was very worried. Duryodhan's attempts to console her failed. Then, friend Karna assured Bhanumati that "I will protect Duryodhan till my last breath." Eventually, hearing these words of Karna, Bhanumati found peace.

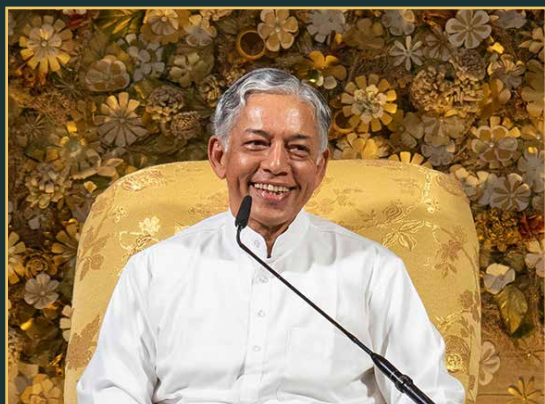
What was the reason for this friendship? Do you know?

When hatred and insults were coming to Karna from all directions, Duryodhan honored him as the king of Angadesh. When no one was accepting Karna as a Kshatriya, Duryodhan gave him a place in his army. Duryodhan wanted to take revenge against the Pandavas and Karna's heart was also filled with the urge to defeat Arjun. The enemy of an enemy is a friend. With this expectation, Duryodhan extended his friendship towards Karna. Karna accepted this friendship and supported Duryodhan at every step of his life.

This was probably Karna's biggest mistake. So as to not break his friendship and to repay the debt of his friend, Karna forgot the difference between right and wrong. Instead of doing this, Karna could have tried to divert Duryodhan towards the right path by giving him the correct understanding.

Friends, has it ever happened in your life that, in order to maintain a friendship, you have supported your friends even in moral wrongdoings? Or you did not divert them towards the right path?

Let's see who can be called a true friend.



Gnani With Youth

Questioner: Deepakbhai, I want to come to the satsang, but my friend doesn't like it, so if I come to the satsang by telling him a white lie, it is beneficial for me, isn't it? Doing so will prevent us from quarreling!

Pujyashree: What kind of friends do you have that if you tell them the truth, they have issues with you? How can you call them your friends if they have issues with you? Are they your friends for just hanging out at street corners?!! Slowly reduce your friendship with such friends. If there is attachment and abhorrence happening, what is the point of being friends with them? Become friends with those who come to satsang! Then you can talk about satsang. Otherwise, to avoid fights with this friend, you have to lie. What is the point? If you tell him that you are going to satsang, will he come with you?

Questioner: No.

Pujyashree: So, what's the use of that friend? On the contrary, he makes fun of you, saying that you have become a great saint. So what need is there for you to tell him? Maintain the friendship but keep it superficial. If it lasts, then it is true friendship, otherwise, let it go. Do you understand? Remain superficial. Having a lot of attachment is what leads to quarrels.





We did a lot of talking. Now let's do an activity.

Activity

Here are 8 sentences spoken by Arjun and Karna from the Mahabharat. You have to identify which sentences were spoken by Arjun and which sentences were spoken by Karna.

1 I have been waiting to defeat you since the day you participated in the Hastinapur competition.

Arjun / Karna

2 I can only see the eye of the bird, Gurudev.

Arjun / Karna

3 He always tries to compete with me, while a true warrior only aims to be excellent.

Arjun / Karna

4 To achieve my abilities, I hid my identity, and I am happy that I was proven to be a skilled warrior in the end.

Arjun / Karna

5 **Disciple:** It has become dark. The target is no longer visible.

Guru: That means your eyes are weak. A warrior must recognize his weaknesses.

Disciple: My eyes are not weak Guru Drona, but darkness is a limitation.

Guru: If one cannot break a stone with his hand, then is that a limitation of the stone or is his hand weak?

Disciple: I will definitely attain victory against darkness.

Arjun / Karna

6 Guru Drona, in your excitement, you declared your disciples as the best archers in the world, but I will disprove your statement.

Arjun / Karna

7 Why did you ask for Eklavya's thumb, Gurudev? I have to become the best. My competition is with myself, not with anyone else.

Arjun / Karna

Answers: 1) Karna 2) Karna 3) Arjun 4) Karna 5) Arjun 6) Karna 7) Arjun



It's a matter of time.

But some things do not change with time, one of which is "competition".

Competition

Karna and Arjun were both competing, but their attitude towards the competition was different. You may have understood from the correct answers of the activity.

Competition is not bad, but only if it is done in a healthy way.

Unhealthy Competition

(Competing with others)

- To increase our own value
- To get the attention of others.
- To make others look worse.

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Healthy Competition

(Competing with ourselves)

- To increase our own ability.
- To prove to ourselves that we can do better.
- To be useful to others.

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Best VS Excellent



In today's competitive world we are all running in a race to succeed. But we have forgotten where we want to reach.

There is fear of being left behind. But no one is thinking, 'what changes should I make to create a better version of myself?'

We all want to be better than everyone else, like Karna. But shouldn't we aim to be excellent like Arjun?

You may think, 'What is the difference between best and excellent?' Let me tell you.

Best means gaining more knowledge, skills, abilities or strength than others. The value in this is not how much you have achieved but the value is how much you have achieved compared to others.

While excellent means achieving as much as you can and competing with yourself instead of competing with others. The person who strives to be excellent automatically becomes the best in his field. But those who focus only on being better than others can never be excellent in their field.

So, friends, you decide ... do you want to be the best or excellent?

Philanthropist Karna



We saw the many good and bad aspects of Karna's life and learned from that. Now, let's become familiar with another side of Karna, which is unique in history, the philanthropist Karna.

To donate is to give something that is yours and give happiness to others. A philanthropist is someone who donates wholeheartedly and does not even think about himself.

No one returned empty handed from Karna. Karna always gave away everything that he had. Whether it was wealth or the protective shield and earnings attached to his own body. Anytime someone came to him and asked for anything, Karna gave it away without even thinking for a second.

Let me show you a heroic event from the life of this philanthropist.

It was a day in the Mahabharat war, where Karna and Arjun were fighting against each other. During that fight, one wheel of Karna's chariot broke. As he was badly injured, his soldiers took him away from the battlefield.

At that time, Lord Shri Krishna told Arjun, "You have seen Karna as a skilled warrior, now let me show you his philanthropist side." Krishna and Arjun disguised themselves as Brahmins and went to Karna and asked for alms. Karna said, "Brahmins, what alms can I give when I am lying on my death bed?" Disguised as a Brahmin, Shri Krishna said, "We have heard that no one returns empty-handed from Angraj Karna."

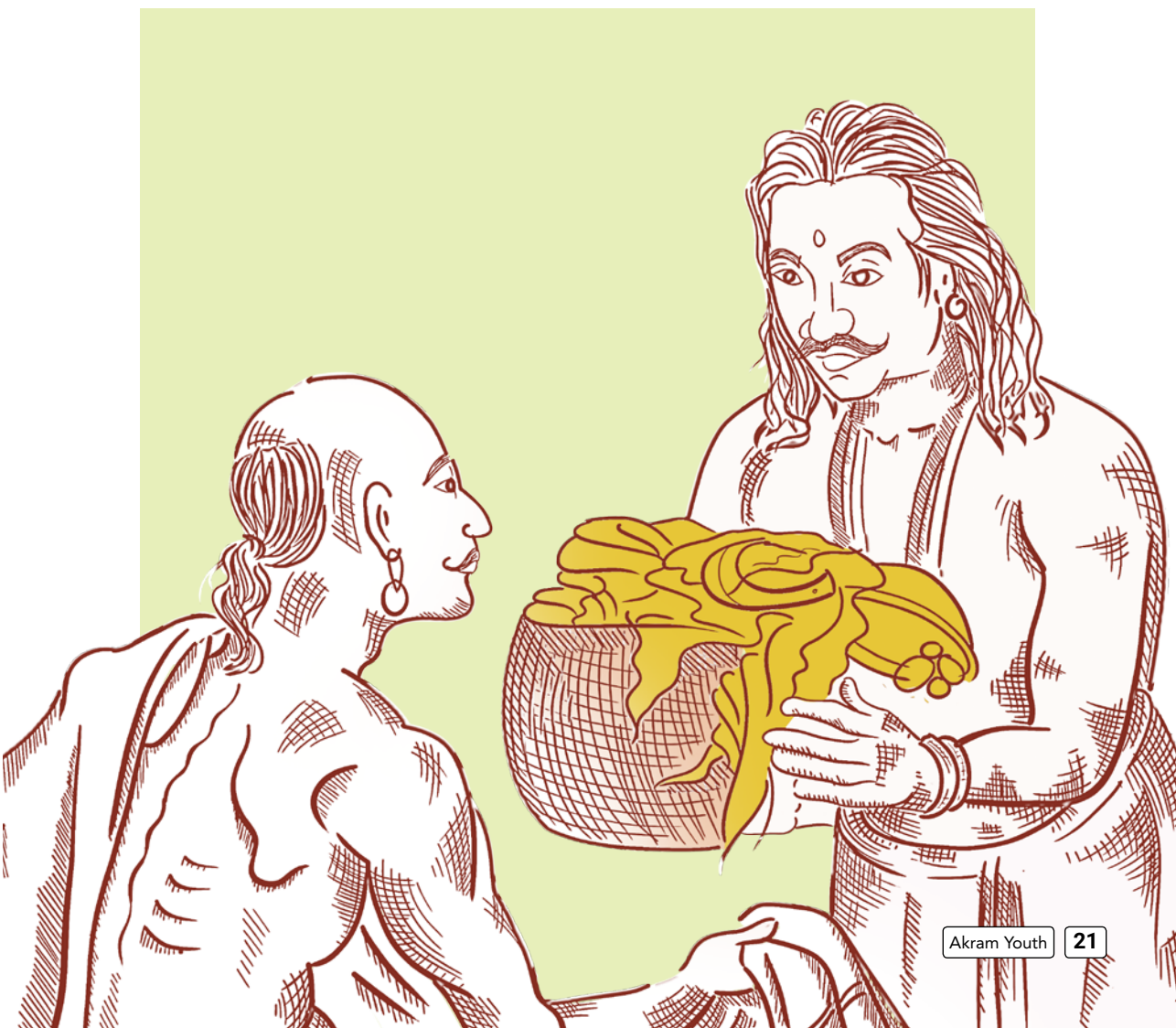
Karna immediately took a stone and broke his golden tooth. Then he shot an arrow into the ground with his bow, from which a fountain of water gushed forth. Karna washed the golden tooth with that water and gave it to both of the Brahmins.

Seeing Karna's wonderful generosity, Arjun was stunned. He was filled with praise for Karna, who was ready to donate in any situation.



This is just a matter of time.

You must be thinking, 'I do not have wealth or courage like Karna. So how can I donate?' It is impossible to become a philanthropist like Karna in this era. But friends, it is possible to donate something other than money.



Four Types of Charity.

Dadashri has described the four types of charity.



Charity of food – To feed the hungry.



Charity of medicine – To give medicine to the sick and poor.



Charity of knowledge – From providing education to providing the Knowledge of the Self; all this is known as charity of knowledge.



Charity of fearlessness – To have conduct that does not cause fear or hurt any living being is known as charity of fearlessness.

We can donate in whichever way possible, can't we?

#Poem

Surya putra Karna nu jivan, swayum ek agni kund che...
Karma na sauthi vikat, gha sahnaro yoddha prachand che...

Swayum shwet dharma ni, adharma na rath par savari che...
Dhara par radha sutni, vivashta sauthi bhaari che...

Divas thato nathi, prakash na putra ni kedi andhaari che...
Amrut shobhe jema, runothi bhareli kyari che...

Elaaj shu karee eno? ene mitrata ma mahamari che...
Chek andar sudhi ghavayelo, e kavach-kundal dhaari che...

Antim samye darshan didha, maa tu ketli pyari che...?
Have shu kadhavi? Faavi gai kulna prashno ni kataari che...

Arjun na bhaage Shri Krishna, ena bhaage ghana shraap che...
Jya drashti mandi ne juvo, tya ek navin santaap che...

Tan, man, jivan evu to ghanu didhu, ajab daanveer che...
Aatlu kem pachaavi shake? Jaane swayum saagar gambhir che...

Pahalethi shonit sarto, chataa medane padelo dhanurdhaari che...
Jivan jaane ur kantak, Karna khali mrutyu no aabhaari che...



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