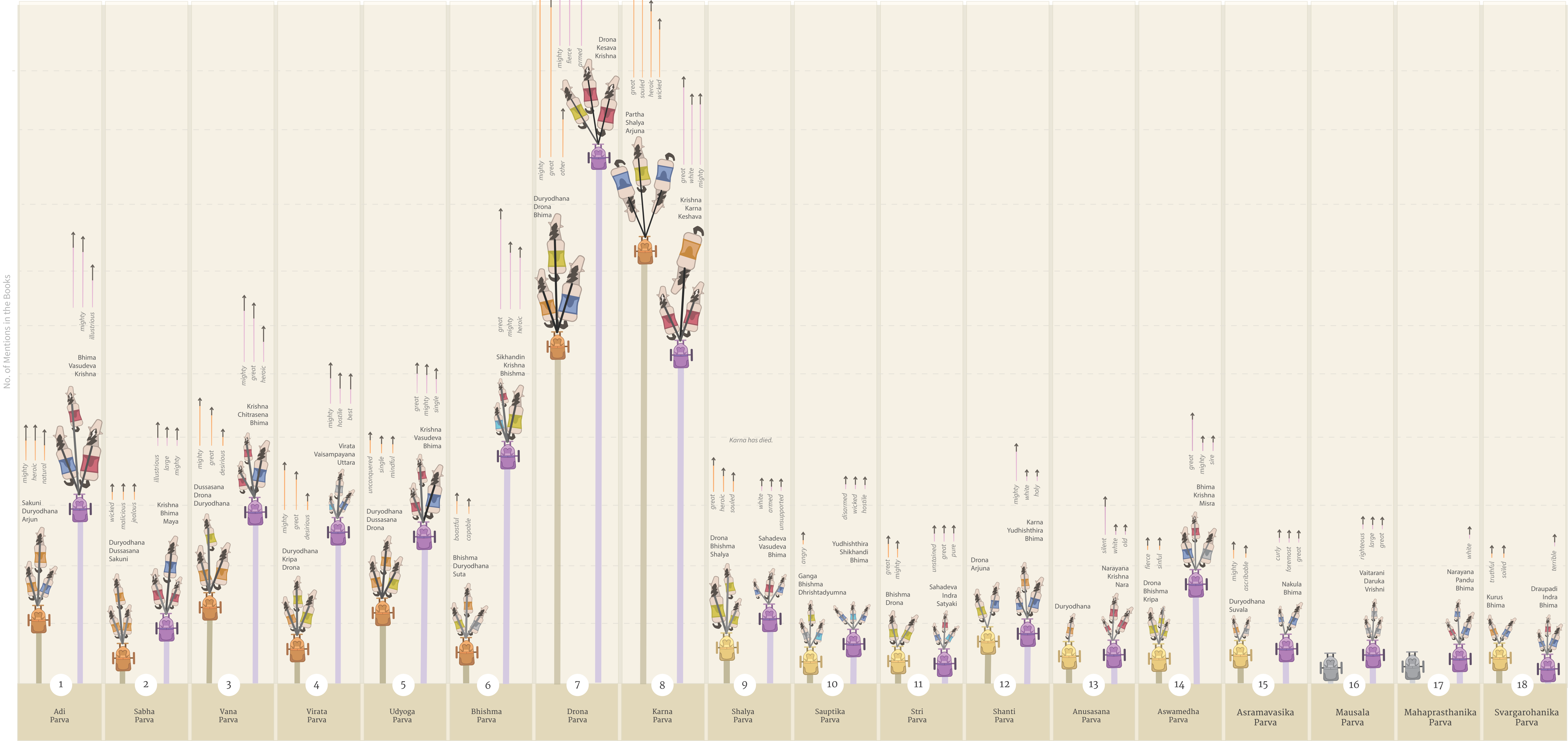


# The Mahabharata

## A battle of fate

The role and depiction of Karna in the Mahabharata is quite intriguing considering how he has always kept his word irrespective of the situations. However, his alliances have often caused him trouble in the epic. On the other hand, Arjuna has been consistently favoured by the gods and other characters to put him forth in favourable positons.

The visualization below depicts the narratives of Karna and Arjuna in a chariot race across the books. It attempts to portray them based on their social circle (closest associates), their descriptions and how frequently did the author mention them across the text.



### Key Events

One of their early encounter occurs during Drona's class, wherein Karna is made the king of Anga by Duryodhana.

Later, they face each other at Draupadi's Swayamvara.

Karna insults Draupadi at the 'game of dice' with Duryodhan, Dussasana and Shakuni.

Pandavas sent on a 12 year.

Arjun vists heaven and gathers weapons from various deities.

While, Karna urges Duryodhana to confront the Pandavas in exile.

Pandavas spent the year incognito at King Virata's kingdom.

Virata's daughter Uttara marries Arjuna's son Abhimanyu

Karna supports Duryodhana for the war ,is against returning the kingdom to Pandavas.

Karna learns from Krishna about his true mother Kunti, meets her.

Mocked constantly by Drona and Bhishma in war discussions.

**Mahabharata Begins!**

Perplexed on fighting his relatives, Arjuna receives the 'Bhagwad Gita' sermon

Shikhandi, led by Arjun kills Bhishma.

Karna finally joins the war, now that Bhishma is dead. Bhishma advises him to end the war.

Drona leads the Kauavas.

Arjuna's son Abhimanyu dies in the 'Chakravyuh'.

Karna slays Bhima's son Ghatotkach, using 'Shakti'.

Driven by Shalya, Karna leads the Kauravas now.

Karna finally fights Arjuna on the battlefield.

Karna's chariot wheel gets stuck, urges Arjuna to pause. Due to his curse, he forgets all his grants and chants.

Arjuna kills Karna!

Ashwathamma attacks the Pandava camp at night. However, the five Pandavas, Satyaki, Krishna and Draupadi survive

Gandhari, Kunti and Draupadi express immense grief.

Yudhishtira while describing the fallen, speaks highly of Bhishma, Drona, Karna

Exhausted by the war, Yudhishtira wants to renounce his kingdom.

Arjuna has an argument with Yudhishtira over his future actions.

Arjuna and the other Pandavas receive wisdom from Bhishma.

Arjuna and the Pandavas meet Kunti, Dhritarashtra, Gandhari at the hermitage.

Gandhari's curse takes shape. However, Arjuna manages to rescue Daruka, Krishna's wives and the children of Dwarka.

Although, he is defeated by a band of robbers. Depressed by his loss, he meets Vyasa who mentions that he has served his purpose in life.

Yudhishtira finds his family in hell, but soon realizes it as a gimmick.

He is delighted to meet his family and relatives in heaven.