

# Our Cultural Values And

## Its present application as per MAHABHARATA

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LIVING

\* KARMA - THE LAW OF ACTION AND  
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## INTRODUCTION:

The Mahabharata is not merely an ancient epic; it is the encyclopedia of human nature - a mirror in which every generation can see itself.

Maharishi Vyasa's timeless work, composed thousands of years ago, continues to resonate through its deep moral lessons, philosophical dialogues and reflections on life's eternal truths.

As Sri Aurobindo once said,

"The Mahabharata is not a mere story of men, but of mankind"

Its wisdom still guides India's conscience especially in times when ethics are tested and values face erosion.

## DHARMA - THE PILLAR OF RIGHTEOUS LIVING:

Exc When Yudhishtra was tested by the Yaksha, he was asked,

"What is the greatest duty?"

Yudhishtra replied, "To act according to one's dharma and conscience."

This moment captures the very soul of Indian ethos - that righteousness is not what benefits us, but what benefits all. In today's context,

Dharma translates into integrity, justice and responsibility. When the Supreme Court of India upheld environmental protection in recent judgements, reminding citizens that

"development cannot come at the cost of dharma towards nature"

It echoed Yudhishtira's wisdom. The concept of ecological dharma - caring for our planet - mirrors of Mahabharata's call for universal responsibility. Thus, whether it is environmental ethics, professional honesty or civic duty, the ancient law of dharma remains our timeless guide.

## KARMA - THE LAW OF ACTION AND CONSEQUENCE:

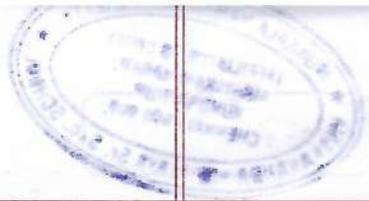
On the battlefield of Kurukshetra, Lord Krishna told Arjuna

"Karmanye vadhikaraste ma phaleshu kadachana" -

"You have the right to perform your duty, but not to the fruits thereof"

This teaching defines the spiritual essence of action - perform with sincerity without attachment to reward.

"Walk with Dharma, win with Honour"



In recent times, healthcare workers and scientists during the COVID-19 pandemic embodied this spirit of karma yoga. They risked their lives not for recognition but for service. Their work was not driven by reward but by purpose - a living reflection of Krishna's message.

Just as Arjuna overcame paralysis through Krishna's words, today's heroes in white coats fought fear with faith, proving that true action is that which uplifts humanity.

## EQUALITY AND DIGNITY - LESSONS FROM DRAUPADI'S ORDEAL:

When Draupadi was humiliated in the Kaurava court, she questioned: "Whom did you lose first, yourself or me?" This piercing question shook even the elders, revealing how silence in the face of injustice equals guilt. The lesson finds chilling relevance in today's struggles for gender equality and women's rights. Recent movements against harassment and inequality from corporate offices to public spaces remind us that Draupadi's cry for dignity still echoes in the hearts of modern women.

"Values are our power, Dharma is our shield"

India's initiatives such as the "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign and rising representation of women in leadership are steps toward fulfilling the dharma denied to Draupadi centuries ago. As the proverb says,

"Yatra narayastu pujiyante, ramante  
tatra Devatah"

"Where women are honoured,  
there the gods rejoice"

### LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS - THE WISDOM OF LORD KRISHNA :

When Duryodhana accused Krishna of partiality, Krishna replied "I am on the side of dharma, not of individuals"

This simple line defines the essence of moral leadership to choose righteousness over relationship.

In present times, ethical leadership is the need of the hour. When leaders prioritize national welfare over political gain - as seen in moments of natural disaster relief or transparent governance, they echo Krishna's ideal.

True leadership is not about power but about principle. The Mahabharata reminds us that dharmic leadership, even if unpopular stands the test of time. "Live the Dharma, Lead the World"

## COMPASSION AND FORGIVENESS - THE STORY OF YUDHISHTHIRA:

After the war, when Yudhishtira met Dronodhana's mother, Grandhara, she cursed him for the loss of her sons. Yet, Yudhishtira bowed before her and said, "Mother, your curse is my penance". His humility softened her heart. In a world divided by hatred and revenge, Yudhishtira's forgiveness stands as an eternal lesson. The spirit of reconciliation shown between nations after conflict or communities uniting after tragedy, carries the same message that peace is the fruit of forgiveness. Recent peace dialogues and global humanitarian aid efforts reflect this ancient truth.

"hatred destroys, but compassion heals"

## WISDOM AND DECISION-MAKING - THE EXAMPLE OF BHISHMA:

Lying on his bed of arrows,  
Bhisma told Yudhishtira,

"The foundation of rule is not power,  
but righteousness"

"Where values Rule, Victory Follows"

In governance and public administration today, the concept of good governance transparency, justice and accountability directly mirrors Bhishma's counsel.

When policies are framed to serve people rather than rulers, we see Bhishma's vision come alive in democratic spirit.

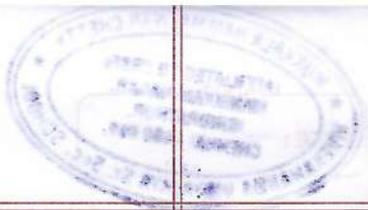
## UNITY IN DIVERSITY - THE LESSON OF THE PANDAVAS:

The five pandavas, despite their differences in nature. The calm Yudhishthira, the fierce Bhima, the skilled Arjuna, the wise Nakula, and the humble Sahadeva stood united under one purpose: DHARMA

This spirit defines India even today. Our nation, diverse in language, faith and culture still stands strong as one family "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam".

When India leads global initiatives like G20 under the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future", it's as if the Pandavas unity is reborn in national form.

"When culture lives, A Nation Rises"



## CONCLUSION:

When dharma guides the path we tread,  
No fear can shake, no doubt is spread.  
From ancient words new light is born,  
And culture blooms like rising dawn.

"Culture builds Character, Character builds civilization"

The Mahabharata is not just a chronicle of ancient kings, it is the moral fabric of humanity. Every era faces its own Kurukshetra - whether it is a battle against corruption, inequality or injustice. The teachings of Krishna, Yudhishtira, Bhishma and Draupadi still guide us through these modern wars of conscience.

"Heritage is our Identity,  
Values are our Density"

As Swami Vivekananda said,

"The Mahabharata contains all that is known about human life and beyond"

If we apply its wisdom, dharma in judgement, karma in action, satya in speech and karuna in heart we can transform not only our lives but our nation.



Let the words of Krishna echo  
eternally within us

"Uddhared atmanantmanam"

"Let man lift himself by his own self."

"Mahabharata: Ancient Wisdom, Modern Light"

By living the values of the Mahabharata,  
we do not merely honour our culture,  
we become its living proof.

