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# OUR CULTURAL VALUES

## AND ITS PRESENT APPLICATION AS PER MAHABHARATA...

Sub Topics

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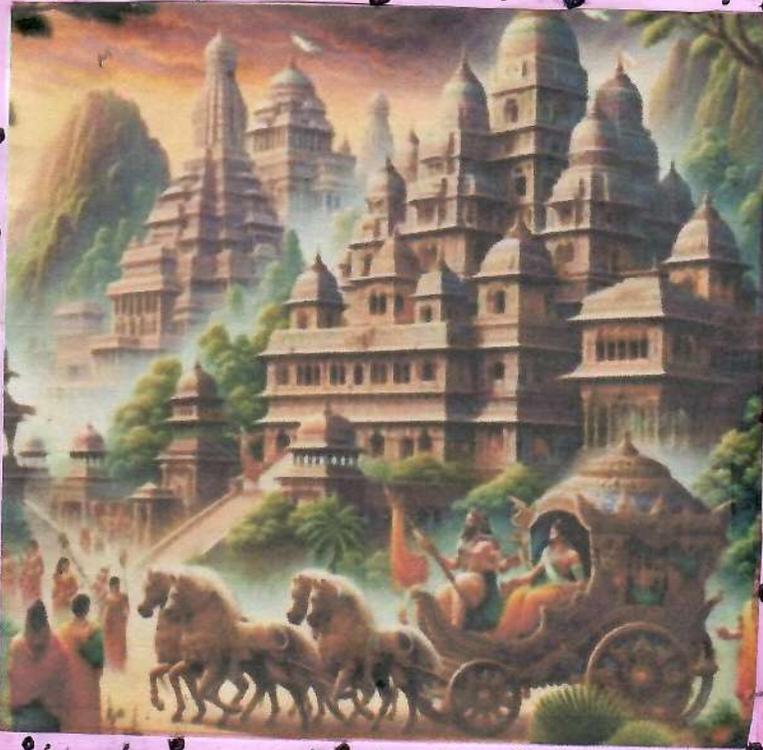
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H. Pavithra  
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## Mahabharata: A mirror to moral choices



"The Mahabharata is not a story  
It is the story of every human  
being who has ever lived and  
will ever live"

The Mahabharata is not just an ancient story of war - it is a vast ocean of wisdom on life, choices, and human nature. Unlike fairy tales

with clear heroes and villains, it portrays realistic characters who struggle with moral decisions, just like people do today. Whether it's Arjuna's confusion on the battlefield or Bhishma's loyalty despite inner conflict, the epic mirrors the dilemmas we face in personal and public life. In today's fast-paced world filled with conflicting values, the Mahabharata acts as a guide to navigate right and wrong. It teaches us that truth isn't always simple, but intention and conscience matter most. Students, parents, leaders, and citizens can all relate to temptation from the epic helping them understand that real strength lies in choosing what is right, not what is easy.

There are three gates to self-destruction  
and hell: Lust, Anger & Greed

## Leadership and Guidance : Krishna's wisdom for a confused world.



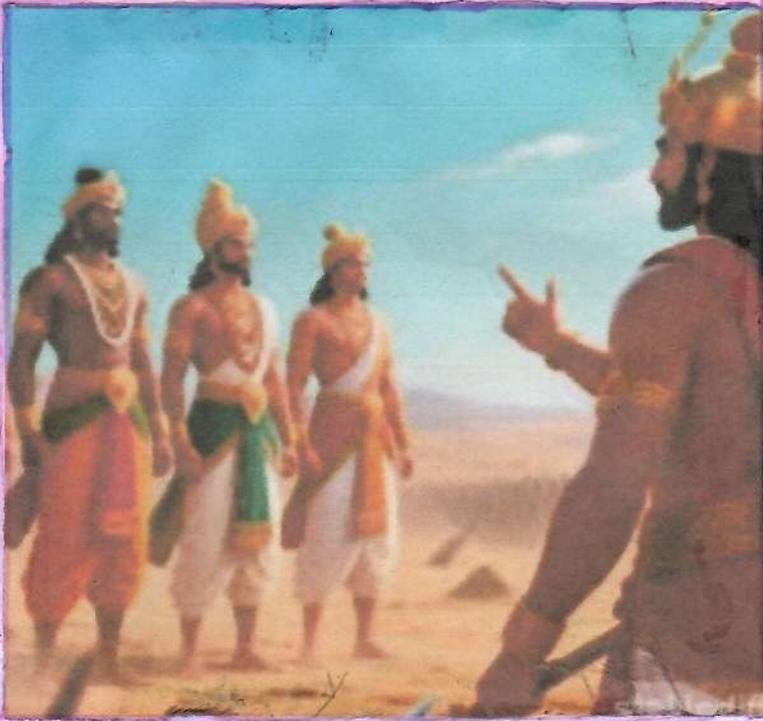
"Whenever there is decline in righteousness, I manifest myself"

Lord Krishna is not just a god in Mahabharata - he is a strategic guide, a moral philosopher, and the soul of righteous leadership. When Arjuna hesitates before battle

Krishna doesn't command - he consoles. His teachings in the Bhagavad Gita are universal lessons of responsibility. Today's world needs Krishna-like leadership: wise, calm, and focused on the greater good. Leaders in politics, schools, or even families can learn from Krishna to lead without ego, speak with purpose, and guide others towards truth - not manipulate for personal gain. Krishna teaches us that leadership is not about control, but about awakening others to their potential. Whether you're a team captain, a teacher, or a parent, Krishna's leadership model - based on dharma, clarity, and compassion - is a timeless blue print.

"A true leader does not walk ahead of the crowd, but walks within it, showing the way the wisdom"

# Integrity vs Ambition : Lessons from Duryodhana and Yudhishtira



"It is not Power but Character that sustain Victory"

The Mahabharata presents two contrasting leaders - Duryodhana, driven by greed and ego, and Yudhishtira, guided by truth and integrity. Duryodhana's ambition, despite his bravery, leads to destruction. Yudhishtira, though flawed, learns respect through

honesty and moral strength. In the modern world, ambition is often celebrated - but when ambition lacks ethics, it becomes dangerous. Many scandals in politics, business or sports reflect Duryodhana - Like thinking : Success at any cost. But real, lasting success - like Yudhishtira's - comes from trust, fairness, and self-awareness. Young minds intense pressure to "win", jobs or society. The Mahabharata teaches how is as important as the what. Compromising truth for shortcuts may give temporary gain, but leads to long-term loss of respect, peace, and character. Success by any means necessary. He Believed in using any means, virtuous or sinful, to attain success and eliminate competition. This led to unethical actions like the dice game and the disrobing of Draupadi.

"Pride comes before destruction, and an arrogant spirit before a fall"

# Dharma and Duty: The Foundation of Responsible Living.



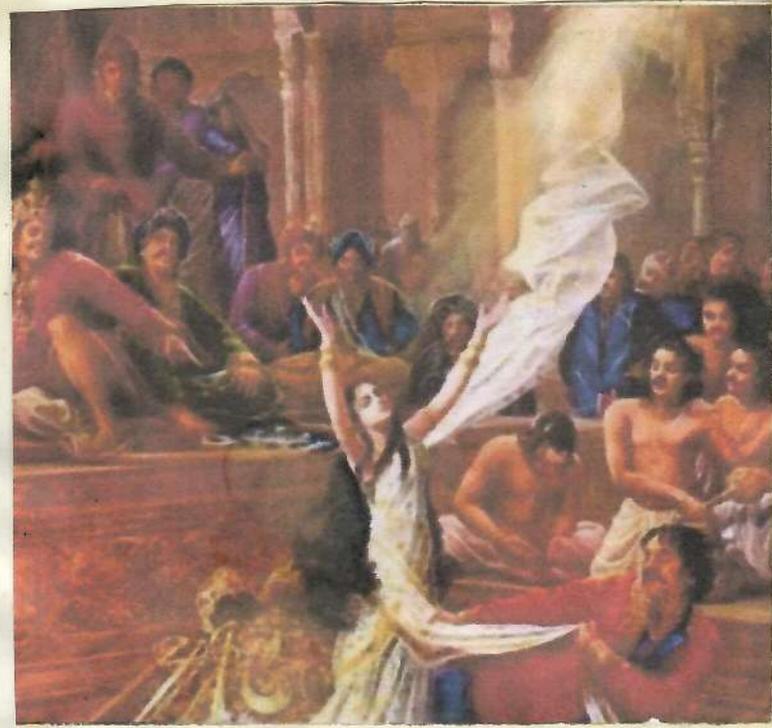
"You have the right to perform your duties, but not the fruits thereof."

In the Mahabharata, dharma is not just religious duty; it's the moral responsibility each person holds. Every major conflict in the epic

arises from a struggle to choose the right dharma. Yudhishthira sticks to truth; Arjuna is taught to fight for justice and even Krishna emphasizes action aligned with duty, not desire. In today's context, dharma can be seen in how students study sincerely, professionals work honestly, or leaders govern ethically. If everyone fulfilled their responsibilities sincerely, society would be more fair, peaceful, and progressive. The concept of "Nishkama Karma" - doing duty without selfishness - is especially relevant in today's competitive world. Doing one's duty doesn't mean blind obedience; it means acting with awareness, balance, and care for others. Just like Arjuna was reminded of his duty as a warrior, we must all remember our roles - as children, citizens, or future leaders.

"Dharmo rakshati rakshitah"  
"Ahimsa Paramo Dharma"

## Empowering Women: Draupadi's Voice in the Modern Age.



"A woman is not an object to be possessed. She is a force to be respected."

Draupadi, the queen with five husbands, is one of the most powerful women in Indian epics. Her strength not just in beauty or royalty but in her

fierce sense of justice and self-respect. When she becomes a symbol of every woman who demands dignity. In today's world, where women still face inequality, harassment and silencing, Draupadi's story is incredibly relevant. She shows that women are not weak or passive - they are voices of truth and power. From education to leadership, the Mahabharata inspires us to create a society where women are heard, respected, and empowered. Draupadi teaches us that speaking up against wrong is not arrogance - it's courage. Her resilience reminds every girl and woman that they have a right to dignity and every man that protecting and respecting women is his dharma too.

"Your voice is your weapon against oppression. Silence is not an option."

## Conclusion: Revisiting Ancient Values for Better Future



"Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising everytime we fall with dharma"

The Mahabharata is not just an epic of war - it is a guiding light for human behavior, emotions

decisions, and relationships. In every chapter, we find values that are still applicable today: truth, duty, loyalty, courage, respect for woman, and the importance for moral choices. As we move forward in a modern, fast-paced world, we risk losing the essence of our cultural roots. But instead of ignoring the past, we should adapt and apply these ancient teachings to modern problems - just as Krishna advised Arjuna to rise above confusion and do his duty in homes, schools, and offices, if we live with value of inspired by the Mahabharata, we will create a more compassionate, responsible, and just society. It is through self-reflection and ethical action that we honour our culture and shape a meaningful future.

"The Mahabharata is not the Past  
It is the present in disguise"