



99 ESSAY WRITING 18 COMPETITION

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Our Cultural Values and its Present Applications as per Mahabharata

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Introduction:

One who performs their duty without attachment, surrendering the results unto the Supreme Lord, is unaffected by sinful actions, as lotus leaf is untouched by water.

The Mahabharata is not only an ancient epic but also a timeless guide to human values, moral choices, and social responsibilities. Although written thousands of years ago, the epic mirrors human nature so accurately that its teachings remain deeply relevant in modern life. Mahabharata is essentially an encyclopedia of human existence, offering valuable perspectives on navigating life's complexities and offering lessons on the enduring power of truth and duty in our lives today.

Righteousness and Duty (Dharma)

Yato Dharma tasto Jayah

A famous quote from the Mahabharata stating "Where there is Dharma, there will be Victory" clearly envisions the need of righteousness and duty. At the heart of the Mahabharata is the concept of Dharma. Characters like Yudhishtira attempt to uphold righteousness even in the most challenging situations which earned him the title Dharma Raja or King of Dharma. Today, Dharma can be seen in ethical



decision-making, fulfilling responsibilities at work, respecting laws and choosing honesty over convenience. In professions like medicine, teaching, administration, and leadership, the commitment to duty mirrors the spirit of the karma-yoga. Though situations may be complex, one must strive to choose the morally right path.

Truth and Integrity (Satya)

Virtue, Truth, Ethical Conduct, strength and the Goddess of wealth, prosperity and good fortune, all for ever cling to Integrity. Have not the least doubt about this.

The above quote Dhritarashtra stated? recalling a story about Indra and Prahlada stresses that truth and integrity are the foundations of all lasting good fortunes.

Truth is honoured as a supreme virtue in the epic. The Mahabharata teaches the truth strengthens character and forms the foundation of trust. In the digital era, where misinformation spreads quickly, the value of truth is more urgent than ever. Whether in media, governance or personal interactions, integrity builds trust. Students, professionals and leaders are reminded that long-term success rests on credibility, not on short-term gains.



Respect for Family and Social Relationships:

The bond that links your true family is not one of blood, but of respect and joy in each other's life.

Family bonds, loyalty and social responsibilities are the central themes of the Mahabharata. Arjuna always had huge respect towards his family members though he had to fight against them. Arjuna was completely filled with sadness and guiltiness and denied to fight just because of the family bond he had.

The narrative also highlights the importance of respecting elders, supporting siblings, and maintaining harmony. This value is hugely related to today's world. Celebrations, rituals and traditions keep our cultural ties strong. Even in urban lifestyles, maintaining emotional bonds and caring and respecting elders reflects these timeless ideals.

Justice and Equality:

Justice and Equality are the eyes of law. All are equal before God.

The Mahabharata deals extensively with justice, fairness, and the rights of individuals. The struggle of Draupadi



for dignity and justice while their clothes were dragged is a powerful reminder of the need for moral courage and bravery. The characters of the epic showcase and provide importance of to values including justice and equality. The Pandavas were treated equally and given guidance and coaching in various art forms including archery and other skills. Today, values like gender equality, human rights and social fairness reflect the same principles. Movements for justice and dignity continue to echo the ancient call for righteousness.

Wisdom and Right Judgement

Don't judge a book by its cover

This well-known proverb is actually an origin from the great epic the Mahabharata. Mahabharata connects wisdom and right judgemental aspect. It is a strong theme. The dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita highlights the importance of wisdom, self-reflection, and clear thinking. The epic shows that intelligence must be guided by moral understanding. In today's world, wise decision-making is required when facing career choices. Critical thinking, emotional balance, and

thoughtful judgement help individuals overcome challenges, just as Arjuna did on the battlefield.

Self - Control and Discipline:

Discipline is the key to success.

A disciplined person can easily lead and pave way to victory.

Many tragedies in the Mahabharata arise from uncontrolled desires - Duryodhana's jealousy, Dhritarashtra's attachment or karna's blind loyalty. The epic warns that lack of self-control leads to conflict, confusion and sufferings. The epic teaches that intelligence alone is insufficient, what matters is viveka wisdom, discipline to distinguish right from wrong. Krishna's counsel to Arjuna stands as the highest model of thoughtful decision-making. Connecting these values with today's world, which is filled with distractions - technology, competition and material temptations - self-discipline and self-control is essential. It helps in time management, studies, healthy living and ethical conduct. self-control, decision-making, emotional intelligence are valued in schools, workplaces and governance just as they were in the battlefield of Kurukshetra.



Compassion and Humanity:

One who shows compassion, are the one being shown compassion for them irrespective of anything.

As soon as one thinks of Mahabharata, it is the battlefield that comes to their mind with lot of victims, a ground filled with blood and sorrow.

Despite being a story of war, the Mahabharata, repeatedly highlights compassion. Characters like Vidura, Kunti and Krishna teach empathy, forgiveness and kindness. Even warriors show respect towards opponents and elders. In today's competitive and jealousy world, compassion is hidden. But this compassion can be inculcated by means of helping and it appears through social service, community support, mental health awareness and inclusive behaviour. The growing emphasis on humanitarian values, kindness and care for the environment reflects the epic's timeless moral compass.

Conclusion:

Destiny is all about what we see and what we believe, not what we think!!



The Mahabharata remains a guiding light for our cultural values even after thousands of years. Its teachings on duty, truth, compassion, self-discipline, justice and wisdom are not limited to ancient times - they are essential for building a responsible, peaceful and ethical society today. Krishna's teachings in the Gita emphasize wisdom and right judgement. Draupadi's story reminds us to stand up for justice and dignity. It highlights self-control and discipline as keys to a peaceful life. These values are still relevant to the modern life. Thus, the **MAHABHARATA** continues to inspire us to live with truth, duty and compassion.