

# **Duty and Honour**

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**Abstract:** *This research paper delves into the profound themes of duty and honour as depicted in two monumental epics: The Bhagavad Gita and The Iliad. Through the narratives of Arjuna and Achilles, the paper elucidates the timeless struggles that define human existence. Arjuna's turmoil on the battlefield of Kurukshetra exemplifies the clash between personal affection and moral obligation, where his hesitation to confront loved ones reveals the emotional weight of duty. Guided by Krishna, Arjuna learns that true strength lies in steadfastness to justice, despite the heart's trepidation. Conversely, Achilles embodies the fierce fire of pride and grief, grappling with the insult to his honour and the devastating loss of his beloved friend, Patroclus. His journey transforms grief into a deeper understanding of honour, one rooted in love and loyalty rather than mere ego. The analysis highlights that while Arjuna approaches his duty with calm introspection, Achilles' path is marked by tempestuous emotion, yet both warriors ultimately exemplify the essence of courage. The paper posits that the true battlefield extends beyond physical confrontations, residing instead within the human heart where doubt and conviction intertwine. It asserts that the noblest victories are those of inner resilience, manifested in choices that reflect integrity and purpose, even amid personal sacrifice. Furthermore, the research draws parallels between these ancient tales and contemporary life, illustrating that the essence of duty and honour remains relevant in today's moral dilemmas. It emphasizes that every individual faces daily battles that require balancing personal desires with ethical responsibilities. The narratives serve as poignant reminders that courage is not the absence of fear but the conscious choice to act with heart and conviction, even when faced with uncertainty. Ultimately, this exploration reveals that duty and honour are universal values that transcend time and culture. They guide us in navigating the complexities of human relationships and moral choices, urging us to embrace love, truth, and a commitment to something greater than ourselves. Through the legacies of Arjuna and Achilles, we learn that honour is not merely a grand concept but a lived experience, shaped by the choices we make in the quiet moments of life.*

**Keywords:** Timeless values, Cultural relevance, Strength of character

