

The Battle of Mahābhārata: Dharma, Conflict, and Ethical Philosophy in Ancient Indian Epic Tradition

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Abstract: *The Mahābhārata is not just a story of kings, warriors, and war—it is a powerful reflection on human life, choices, and responsibility. At the center of the epic is the Battle of Kurukṣetra, which represents the timeless struggle between what is right and what is wrong. This paper explores the reasons behind the war, the events on the battlefield, and the deeper philosophical ideas that emerge from the conflict, especially through the teachings of the Bhagavad Gītā. By examining the text closely and connecting its ideas to real human experiences, the study shows how the Mahābhārata continues to shape moral thinking, leadership values, and personal behavior even today. Rather than glorifying war, the epic helps us understand how difficult ethical choices can be, and how deeply human actions and moral failures affect the world around us. It reminds us that every decision carries consequences, and that true strength lies not in power or victory, but in wisdom, compassion, and moral courage. Even centuries later, its message still speaks to the human heart, guiding people through confusion, conflict, and the search for what is truly right..*

Keywords: Mahābhārata, Kurukṣetra War, Dharma, Adharma, Bhagavad Gītā, Ethical Philosophy