

## The Difficulty of Being Good

By Gurcharan Das

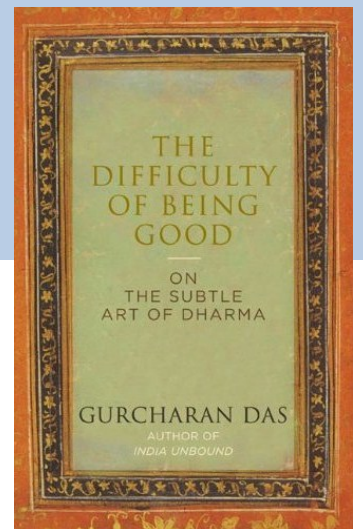
Fight within! It was the fight within me. It was a war between my Intellect and my Principles. I was struggling to find a source of inspiration to guide me through the tough times. As any other human being I was deviated by the distractions. I was fighting within and asking a single question – Why don't all good deserving people achieve what they had deserved and many non-deserving people not following the human laws go beyond what they actually deserved. The quest within me was seeking an answer. And this book “The Difficulty of Being Good” showed me the path to the answer. It showed the subtle art of Dharma. Written by Mr. Gurcharan Das has been inspired by the greatest ever living epic “Mahabharata”.

It's a shocker to a God believer when someone states with references that “Even Gods don't have the right to say what is Wrong and what is Right”. He explains that the art of dharma is so subtle and complex that only time can judge the righteousness of a decision. I was wondering how this statement can be true? But Das's careful selection of events from the Mahabharata made me think and also proved the truth in this statement!

The chapters are arranged in a way that not only the epic's story continues but also a particular character was analysed to understand one's acts. Krishna's advice to Arjuna - “Not to think of fruits of action” is to be treated as concentrate on the work at hand and not the result. But Das questions the feasibility of this idea for a regular person. How can a person not dream of his benefits while working. The analysis of Bhishma and Karna was also quite interesting to read.

Each and every instance explained in the Mahabharata can be related to our day to day life. Why between two people with same intelligence and caliber, one lives a life of luxury and other struggles with normalcy? Why does India hesitate to any action? Great leaders always face moral dilemma during their decision making hours. So Leaders searching for a guiding principle for a fruitful decision making skill can bank on this book which opens up many factors through case studies from the epic.

This book answers by explaining rules of Dharma and actions. Although the book raises many questions on the ideology and thoughts, but it is just a technique to guide you to your answers. I assure you this book will answer all your dilemma's with much clarity in simple language. This book will provide you reason for - Difficulty of Being Good.



**Reviewed by**  
Manjunath Ravi  
Test Engineer  
Chennai

## Interesting Concepts

### **MBA acclaimed**

Professors in renowned management institutes have took this book to teach the leadership qualities to their students.

### **Is God true balancer**

It's interesting to think that even GOD does not have the right to say what is Wrong or Right

### **Does law give equality**

The law governing a warrior will also govern a Brahmin but behave differently

### **A Leader's dharma**

The book suggests retributive justice by a king against its enemies for the good of his own citizens

### **Analyzing Bhishma**

Bhishma was able to control all his senses and follow the path of dharma and righteousness at every instance. Once Bhishma noticed that his father was not happy and seems to be in a confused state, for days together he found his father agitated, and spending sleepless nights. On enquiry Bhishma came to know that his father is in love with a girl and is in dilemma whether to marry her or not. Understanding the pain and complexity of his father's situation, Bhishma himself went to the girl and requested her to marry his father. The author questions even Bhishma's act of lobbying for his own father's love. He says this isn't an act of Dharma of child to find his own mother.

### **Analyzing Karna**

Having seen the tamil movie Karnan for thousand times, I always wanted to live a life like him. But this book brought up many questions on his character. Karna although being the son of Sun and lived a life of dharma was also prone to attractions, the desire for fame and power. If he was following the righteous dharma, he should have stood against the act of Duryodhana against Draupadi.

Send in your reviews to [lad@maveric-systems.com](mailto:lad@maveric-systems.com)

Let's review! Let's share!

