

characters of the mahabharata

Characters of the Mahabharata

The Mahabharata is one of the most epic and revered texts in Indian literature, offering a profound portrayal of human nature, dharma, and morality through its diverse array of characters. The characters of the Mahabharata are complex, multi-dimensional, and serve as moral archetypes that reflect the virtues and vices inherent in human life. Understanding these characters provides insight into the epic's themes of duty, righteousness, loyalty, and justice. In this article, we explore the key figures of the Mahabharata, their backgrounds, personalities, and roles within the epic's intricate narrative.

Main Characters of the Mahabharata

The Mahabharata features a vast cast of characters, each contributing uniquely to the unfolding of the story. Here, we focus on the central figures whose actions and decisions shape the destiny of the Kurukshetra War and the moral lessons embedded within.

The Pandavas

The Pandavas are the five brothers and heroes of the Mahabharata, known for their virtuous qualities and unwavering commitment to dharma. They are central to the narrative and embody ideals of righteousness.

1. Yudhishtira

- **Role:** Eldest Pandava, King of Indraprastha
- **Personality:** Just, honest, and virtuous
- **Traits:** Deep sense of duty, unwavering adherence to dharma
- **Key Moments:** Upholding truth during the game of dice, his reluctance to fight in the war initially, and his role as a just ruler

2. Bhima

- **Role:** Second Pandava, known for his strength

- **Personality:** Courageous, impulsive, fiercely loyal
- **Traits:** Superhuman strength, love for food, protective nature
- **Key Moments:** Killing Duryodhana and Bhishma, defending his brothers

3. Arjuna

- **Role:** Third Pandava, master archer
- **Personality:** Brave, focused, devotion to Krishna
- **Traits:** Skillful warrior, seeker of knowledge
- **Key Moments:** His dialogue with Krishna in the Bhagavad Gita, his participation in the Kurukshetra war

4. Nakula and Sahadeva

- **Role:** Twin brothers, youngest Pandavas
- **Personality:** Gentle, intelligent, skilled in swordsmanship (Nakula) and astrology (Sahadeva)
- **Traits:** Loyalty, wisdom
- **Key Moments:** Their contributions in the war and support to their brothers

The Kauravas

The Kauravas are the hundred sons of Dhritarashtra, often portrayed as the antagonists of the Mahabharata. Their rivalry with the Pandavas fuels much of the epic's conflict.

1. Duryodhana

- **Role:** Eldest Kaurava, leader of the Kauravas
- **Personality:** Ambitious, proud, sometimes arrogant

- **Traits:** Skilled warrior, master strategist, envious of the Pandavas
- **Key Moments:** His refusal to give the Pandavas their rightful share of the kingdom, the dice game, and his role in the Kurukshetra war

2. Dushasana

- **Role:** Duryodhana's younger brother
- **Personality:** Ruthless, loyal to Duryodhana
- **Traits:** Aggressive, loyal, and brutal
- **Key Moments:** Attempt to disrobe Draupadi, his death at Bhima's hands

3. Karna

- **Role:** Warrior allied with the Kauravas, born to Kunti before her marriage
- **Personality:** Proud, loyal, courageous
- **Traits:** Exceptional warrior, sense of honor, tragic hero
- **Key Moments:** His loyalty to Duryodhana, his duel with Arjuna, and his tragic death

Other Notable Characters

While the Pandavas and Kauravas dominate the epic, numerous other characters add depth and richness to the story.

1. Krishna

- **Role:** Divine charioteer, guide, and friend to Arjuna
- **Personality:** Wise, compassionate, strategic
- **Traits:** Incarnation of Vishnu, master diplomat and warrior

- **Key Moments:** Delivering the Bhagavad Gita, his role in the Kurukshetra war, and his diplomacy

2. Dhritarashtra

- **Role:** Blind king and father of the Kauravas
- **Personality:** Weak-willed, torn between love and duty
- **Traits:** Blindness symbolizing ignorance, emotional attachment
- **Key Moments:** His inability to control Duryodhana's actions, his grief after the war

3. Gandhari

- **Role:** Queen of Kuru dynasty, wife of Dhritarashtra
- **Personality:** Devout, compassionate, vengeful
- **Traits:** Blindfolded herself to share her husband's blindness, her grief over the war
- **Key Moments:** Her curse on Krishna, her mourning after the war

4. Draupadi

- **Role:** Wife to the Pandavas, central female character
- **Personality:** Courageous, intelligent, fiercely loyal
- **Traits:** Her dignity and resilience, her pivotal role in the Kurukshetra conflict
- **Key Moments:** Her disrobing incident, her influence on the Pandavas' decisions

The Moral and Philosophical Archetypes

The characters of the Mahabharata are not merely figures in a story but embody philosophical and

moral archetypes that teach lessons on virtue, vice, duty, and destiny.

Virtuous Characters

- **Yudhishtira:** Embodying truth and righteousness
- **Krishna:** Wisdom and divine guidance
- **Gandhari:** Devotion and sacrifice

Flawed but Noble Characters

- **Duryodhana:** Pride and ambition, but also loyalty
- **Karna:** Honor and tragedy, loyalty to his friend Duryodhana

Villains and Antiheroes

- **Dushasana:** Cruelty and greed
- **Shakuni:** Cunning and manipulative

Conclusion

The characters of the Mahabharata are as diverse as they are profound, representing a spectrum of human virtues and flaws. Their stories serve as moral lessons, illustrating the complexities of dharma and adharma (righteousness and unrighteousness). Through their struggles, triumphs, and tragedies, these characters continue to inspire and teach timeless values. Whether it is the noble Pandavas, the ambitious Kauravas, the divine Krishna, or the resilient Draupadi, each character plays a vital role in shaping the epic's enduring legacy. Their stories remind us of the importance of righteousness, loyalty, courage, and humility in navigating the moral dilemmas of life.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the main protagonist in the Mahabharata?

The main protagonists are the Pandavas—Yudhishtira, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula, and Sahadeva—who are central to the epic's story.

What is the role of Lord Krishna in the Mahabharata?

Lord Krishna serves as a divine guide, charioteer, and strategist for Arjuna, providing wisdom and support, especially during the Kurukshetra War.

Who is Duryodhana and what is his significance?

Duryodhana is the eldest Kaurava prince, known for his rivalry with the Pandavas and his role as the primary antagonist in the Mahabharata.

What are the qualities of Bhishma, the grand elder?

Bhishma is revered for his unwavering loyalty, vow of celibacy, wisdom, and his role as a formidable warrior and protector of the Kuru throne.

Who is Karna and why is he considered a tragic hero?

Karna is a brave warrior born to Kunti before her marriage, raised by a charioteer, and is admired for his loyalty and valor despite being born of lower social status.

How does Draupadi influence the story of the Mahabharata?

Draupadi is the wife of the Pandavas whose insult in the Kaurava court sparks the conflict that leads to the Kurukshetra War, symbolizing honor and dignity.

Additional Resources

Characters of the Mahabharata

The Mahabharata stands as one of the most profound and intricate epics in world literature, renowned not only for its grand narrative but also for its richly developed characters. These characters are more than mere figures in a story; they embody complex virtues, flaws, dilemmas, and philosophies, making the epic a timeless reflection on human nature. The characters of the Mahabharata are diverse, ranging from divine incarnations to flawed humans, each playing a vital role in conveying the epic's moral, spiritual, and philosophical themes.

Main Characters of the Mahabharata

The Mahabharata features a vast array of characters, but some stand out due to their significance, depth, and influence on the storyline. Below, we explore these key figures, their traits, roles, and the

lessons they impart.

Krishna

Overview:

Krishna is arguably the most revered and multifaceted character in the Mahabharata. As an avatar of Vishnu, he embodies divine wisdom, compassion, and strategic prowess. His role as a charioteer, guide, and counselor to Arjuna makes him central to the epic's moral and philosophical core.

Traits and Features:

- Divine Incarnation: Embodying Vishnu, Krishna's divine nature emphasizes the spiritual depth of the epic.
- Strategic Genius: His counsel during the Kurukshetra war exemplifies profound diplomacy and tactical intelligence.
- Compassionate and Playful: His childhood antics and interactions reflect a playful, approachable divine personality.
- Wise and Philosophical: Through the Bhagavad Gita, he imparts timeless wisdom on duty, righteousness, and devotion.

Pros:

- Embodies divine wisdom and compassion.
- Acts as a moral compass and guide for Arjuna.
- Provides philosophical insights that transcend time.

Cons:

- His complex actions sometimes raise questions about morality, such as his role in the Mahabharata war.
- His divine intervention can be viewed as manipulative or overly strategic.

Arjuna

Overview:

Arjuna, the peerless archer and a central hero of the epic, epitomizes virtue, skill, and moral contemplation. His internal struggles and eventual realization form a core narrative thread.

Traits and Features:

- Brilliant Archer: Known for his unmatched skill with the bow.
- Dilemma and Growth: His initial confusion and subsequent enlightenment highlight the human aspect of spiritual and moral growth.
- Loyal and Dutiful: Deeply committed to his family and dharma (righteousness).
- Sensitive and Reflective: His questions and doubts display his introspective nature.

Pros:

- Represents human virtue and the journey toward moral clarity.
- His character development encourages self-reflection.
- Central to the philosophical teachings of the Bhagavad Gita.

Cons:

- His indecisiveness at times causes delays in action.
- Over-reliance on divine guidance may suggest a lack of self-reliance.

Draupadi

Overview:

Draupadi, the wife of the Pandavas, is a symbol of strength, dignity, and resilience. Her character embodies the plight and empowerment of women within the epic's societal context.

Traits and Features:

- Resilient and Courageous: She endures humiliation with dignity and fights for justice.
- Intelligent and Articulate: Her words often cut through political and social pretensions.
- Loyal yet Complex: Her relationships with her husbands and her reactions to events reveal her layered personality.

Pros:

- Embodies female strength and resilience.
- Her protests against injustice highlight her moral courage.
- Serves as a critical voice emphasizing dharma.

Cons:

- Her role sometimes emphasizes traditional gender expectations.
- Her emotional responses, such as anger and grief, add complexity to her character.

Yudhishtira

Overview:

Yudhishtira, the eldest Pandava, is the embodiment of dharma (righteousness). His unwavering commitment to truth and justice guides much of the epic's moral fabric.

Traits and Features:

- Virtuous and Honest: His adherence to truth is both his strength and his flaw.
- Wise and Diplomatic: Acts as a mediator and leader.
- Struggles with Temptation and Duty: His decisions often reflect moral dilemmas.

Pros:

- Exemplifies adherence to dharma.
- Demonstrates leadership grounded in morality.

- Inspires through his integrity.

Cons:

- His inflexibility can lead to moral rigidity.
- Sometimes his pursuit of righteousness causes unnecessary suffering.

Bhishma

Overview:

Bhishma is a formidable warrior and a guardian of the Kuru dynasty. His vow of celibacy and loyalty make him a tragic yet noble figure.

Traits and Features:

- Loyal and Dutiful: Devoted to his family and king.
- Wise and Experienced: His counsel is sought during critical moments.
- Tragic Flaw: His unwavering loyalty leads him to uphold the Kauravas, even when morally questionable.

Pros:

- Embodies duty and sacrifice.
- Provides wisdom and perspective.
- His tragic loyalty adds depth to his character.

Cons:

- His rigidity and loyalty may be seen as blindness to justice.
- His role in enabling the Kauravas' actions raises questions about moral responsibility.

Duryodhana

Overview:

Duryodhana, the eldest Kaurava, embodies ambition, pride, and rivalry. His antagonistic role is vital for the epic's conflict.

Traits and Features:

- Ambitious and Proud: Driven by a desire for power and recognition.
- Skilled Warrior: A formidable opponent on the battlefield.
- Jealous and Vengeful: His hatred for the Pandavas fuels many conflicts.

Pros:

- Demonstrates the destructive nature of unchecked ambition.
- His loyalty to his friends and family is unwavering.
- Adds complexity as a character with understandable motives.

Cons:

- His greed and pride lead to immense suffering.
- His unethical decisions cause the downfall of many.

Supporting Characters and Their Significance

Beyond the main figures, the Mahabharata is populated with numerous other characters whose roles enrich the narrative and philosophical depth.

Karna

Overview:

Karna, the great warrior and friend of Duryodhana, is celebrated for his loyalty, valor, and tragic circumstances.

Traits and Features:

- Born of a divine mother, Kunti: His birth secret adds to his tragic heroism.
- Loyal and Generous: Known for his charity and unwavering friendship.
- Loyalty to Duryodhana: He remains devoted despite knowing his true heritage.

Pros:

- Embodies loyalty and virtue in adversity.
- Represents the theme of destiny and societal discrimination.

Cons:

- His unquestioning loyalty leads to moral conflicts.
- His rivalry with Arjuna adds tragedy.

Sanjaya

Overview:

Sanjaya is the charioteer and narrator of the Kurukshetra war, endowed with divine vision to observe the battlefield.

Traits and Features:

- Wise and Insightful: Provides a detailed account of the war.
- Mediator: Acts as a bridge between the battlefield and the royal court.

Pros:

- Offers a unique perspective on the events.
- His narration adds depth and immediacy to the epic.

Cons:

- His role as a narrator can distance readers from the raw emotions of the war.

Conclusion: The Enduring Legacy of Mahabharata Characters

The characters of the Mahabharata are rich, multifaceted, and deeply human, resonating across centuries with their virtues, flaws, dilemmas, and growth. They serve as mirrors to human nature, illustrating how virtues can be challenged by passions, how moral dilemmas test character, and how destiny and free will intertwine. Their stories continue to inspire, teach, and provoke introspection, making the Mahabharata not just an epic tale but a timeless exploration of the human condition. Whether viewed as divine beings or flawed mortals, each character contributes uniquely to the epic's profound philosophical and spiritual messages, ensuring their relevance remains undiminished even in contemporary times.

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characters of the mahabharata: *Some Exemplary Characters of the Mahābhārata* Jayadayal Goyandka, 2006

characters of the mahabharata: Gender and Narrative in the Mahabharata Simon Brodbeck, Brian Black, 2007-08-09 The Sanskrit Mahabharata is one of the most important texts to emerge from the Indian cultural tradition. At almost 75,000 verses it is the longest poem in the world, and throughout Indian history it has been hugely influential in shaping gender and social norms. In the context of ancient India, it is the definitive cultural narrative in the construction of masculine, feminine and alternative gender roles. This book brings together many of the most respected scholars in the field of Mahabharata studies, as well as some of its most promising young scholars. By focusing specifically on gender constructions, some of the most innovative aspects of the Mahabharata are highlighted. Whilst taking account of feminist scholarship, the contributors see the Mahabharata as providing an opportunity to frame discussion of gender in literature not just in terms of the socio-historical roles of men and women. Instead they analyze the text in terms of the wider poetic and philosophical possibilities thrown up by the semiotics of gendering. Consequently, the book bridges a gap in text-critical methodology between the traditional philological approach and more recent trends in gender and literary theory. Gender and Narrative in the Mahabharata will be appreciated by readers interested in South Asian studies, Hinduism, religious studies and gender studies.

characters of the mahabharata: Light on the Mahabharata Nicholas Sutton, 2025-02-04 In this in-depth, engaging guide to the Mahabharata, Hindu Studies scholar Nicholas Sutton explores the central messages of the work's core narratives and passages of instruction, demonstrating how the questions the text poses are as relevant today as they were to those who composed this mighty treatise on human existence. The Mahabharata is a truly vast work of early Sanskrit literature that reflects on a wide range of issues which have concerned people throughout different epochs. Within the context of Indian culture, the significance of the Mahabharata cannot be overstated, as its themes, characters, narratives, and preoccupations have reverberated across the region for centuries. It is well-known that the whole of the epic is structured around a central narrative that

tells of an ancient conflict between two branches of the same royal house, the Pandavas and Kauravas. Yet it is also a clearly didactic work that addresses the fundamental meaning of human existence. In *Light on the Mahabharata: A Guide to India's Great Epic*, Nicholas Sutton examines the multi-faceted manner in which the Mahabharata does this, elucidating the diverse and multi-layered answers the text offers to the many questions it raises. Sutton's book explores why the main characters behave in the manner that they do, the vision of life that motivates them, and the extent to which they are able to prioritise enlightened wisdom over narrow self-interest. Unravelling the Sanskrit epic's myriad lines of reflection, *Light on the Mahabharata* demonstrates that the questions the work poses and the range of answers it suggests are as relevant in the present day as they were in remote antiquity. OXFORD CENTRE SERIES: The Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies Publishing Series offers authoritative yet accessible introductions to a wide range of subjects in Hindu Studies. Each book in the series aims to present its subject matter in a form that is engaging and readily comprehensible to persons of all backgrounds – academic or otherwise – without compromising scholarly rigour. The series thus bridges the divide between academic and popular writing by preserving and utilising the best elements of both. Other books in the series include *The Bhagavad Gita: A New Translation and Study Guide*; *The Hindu Temple and Its Sacred Landscape*; and *Women in the Hindu World*. EXPERT AUTHOR: Nicholas Sutton has spent the four decades studying, teaching, and writing on the Mahabharata. Sutton is the Director of the Continuing Education Department of the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies, an academy for the study of Hindu cultures, societies, philosophies, religions, and languages. He received his PhD from Lancaster University, writing his doctoral dissertation on the Mahabharata, and currently writes and tutors online courses on Hindu religious traditions. EDUCATION AID: This book serves as a comprehensive resource for both classwork and independent study of Hinduism. With the integration of discussion questions, suggested further readings, and glossary of Sanskrit terms, *Light on the Mahabharata* offers an accessible introduction to this enduring Sanskrit epic.

characters of the mahabharata: *Moral Dilemmas in the Mahabharata* Bimal Krishna Matilal, 2014-01-01 Here the collected papers explore the whole question of the relation between the mythopoetic and the moral in the context of the Mahabharata. Here we have a story of extreme complexity, characters that are unforgettable, and a cosmic context in which gods and men alike grapple with destiny. The obligations of kinship and friendship jostle with each other. The women characters, as in everyday life, seem to bear a very heavy load of the burden of life and to stand in a key position in almost every conflict. We are presented with predicaments at every turn. At times these predicaments seem to be aggravated by social structure. At other times they are cushioned by it. Philosophical tangles tied up with karma and dharma are interwoven with the mythopoetic material. Perhaps philosophical issues are pinpointed rather more than they are in Greek epic literature. The essays in this book treat the Mahabharata from an unusual angle, fastening on the moral dilemmas it presents. How universal are the dilemmas faced by the characters in the story, and are the dilemmas in fact resolved? In dealing with these questions, the discussions range over the meaning of the purusarthas, the institutions of marriage and the family, the concept of action in the Gita and the special predicaments faced by Draupadi, Arjuna and others. These studies invite the scholar to reflect afresh on the text and encourage the general reader to find in epic literature much that is relevant to life today.

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to the threshold of the great war that is central to the epic. Now James Fitzgerald resumes this work with translations of the books that chronicle the wars aftermath: The Book of Women and part one of The Book of Peace. These books constitute volume 7 of the projected ten-volume edition. Volumes 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, and 10 of the series will be published over the next several years. In his introductions to these books, Fitzgerald examines the rhetoric of The Mahabharatas representations of the wars aftermath. Indeed, the theme of The Book of Women is the grief of the women left by warriors slain in battle. The book details the keening of palace ladies as they see their dead husbands and sons, and it culminates in a mass cremation where the womens tears turn into soothing libations that help wash the deaths away. Fitzgerald shows that the portrayal of the womens grief is much more than a sympathetic portrait of the sufferings of war. The scenes of mourning in The Book of Women lead into a crisis of conscience that is central to The Book of Peace and, Fitzgerald argues, the entire Mahabharata. In this book, the man who has won power in the great war is torn between his own sense of guilt and remorse and the obligation to rule which ultimately he is persuaded to embrace. The Mahabharata is a powerful work that has inspired awe and wonder for centuries. With a penetrating glimpse into the trauma of war, this volume offers two of its most timely and unforgettable chapters.

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Pradeep Trikha, 2006 Papers presented at the National Seminar on Textuality and Intertextuality in the Mahabharata : Myth, Meaning and Metamorphosis held at Ajmer.

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Bharathiramanachar, 2019-03-23 Mahabharatha is one of the greatest epics containing innumerable guidelines for statesmanship, virtuous living, conflict resolving, and above all, the message of the Bhagwad Gita. In short, it deals with the universal truths of life. This series covers a large part of the epic through ten of the main characters of the epic, including the protagonist Lord Sri Krishna. Each of these books is thought provoking and propels you to know, read and understand more. Our other books here can be searched using #BharathaSamskruthiPrakashana

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across the globe have embraced epics: stories of memorable deeds by heroic characters whose actions have significant consequences for their lives and their communities. Incorporating narrative elements also found in sacred history, chronicle, saga, legend, romance, myth, folklore, and the novel, epics throughout history have both animated the imagination and encouraged reflection on what it means to be human. Teaching World Epics addresses ancient and more recent epic works from Africa, Europe, Mesoamerica, and East, Central, and South Asia that are available in English translations. Useful to instructors of literature, peace and conflict studies, transnational studies, women's studies, and religious studies, the essays in this volume focus on epics in sociopolitical and cultural contexts, on the adaptation and reception of epic works, and on themes that are especially relevant today, such as gender dynamics and politics, national identity, colonialism and imperialism, violence, and war. This volume includes discussion of Ludovico Ariosto's Orlando Furioso, Giulia Bigolina's Urania, The Book of Dede Korkut, Luís Vaz de Camões's Os Lusíadas, David of Sassoun, The Epic of Askia Mohammed, The Epic of Gilgamesh, the epic of Sun-Jata, Alonso de Ercilla y Zúñiga's La Araucana, Homer's Iliad and Odyssey, Kalevala, Kebra Nagast, Kudrun, The Legend of Poṇṇivaḷa Nadu, the Mahabharata, Manas, John Milton's Paradise Lost, Mwindo, the Nibelungenlied, Poema de mio Cid, Popol Wuj, the Ramayana, the Shahnameh, Sirat Bani Hilal, Edmund Spenser's The Faerie Queene, Statius's Thebaid, The Tale of the Heike, Three Kingdoms, Gaspar Pérez de Villagrà's Historia de la Nueva México, and Virgil's Aeneid.

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Age to the 12th Century Mr. Rohit Manglik, 2024-03-11 EduGorilla Publication is a trusted name in the education sector, committed to empowering learners with high-quality study materials and

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characters of the mahabharata: Evil in the Mahabharata Meena Arora Nayak, 2018-01-19 Good and evil, loyalty and treachery, faith and doubt, honour and ignominy—the Mahabharata has served as a primer for codes of conduct to generations of Hindus. Over time, the epic has also fascinated those who love a tale well told. In its telling, however, the story has lost much of its richness and nuance, and the characters have become one-dimensional cut-outs—either starkly good or irredeemably evil. In this reinterpretation, Meena Arora Nayak analyses how the values espoused in the Mahabharata came to be distorted into meagre archetypes, creating customary laws that injure society even today.

characters of the mahabharata: Critical Perspectives on Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni Robin E. Field, Amritjit Singh, Samina Najmi, 2022-02-15 Critical Perspectives on Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni: Feminism and Diaspora offers insights into Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni's provocative and popular fiction. In their engaging and comprehensive introduction, editors Amritjit Singh and Robin Field explore how Divakaruni's short stories and novels have been shaped by her own struggles as a new immigrant and by the influences she imbibed from academic mentors and feminist writers of color. Twelve critical essays by both aspiring and experienced scholars explore Divakaruni's aesthetic of interconnectivity and wholeness as she links generations, races, ethnicities, and nations in her depictions of the diversity of religious and ethnic affiliations within the Indian diaspora. The contributors offer a range of critical perspectives on Divakaruni's growth as a novelist of historical, mythic, and political motifs. The volume includes two extended interviews with Divakaruni, offering insights into her personal inspirations and social concerns, while also revealing her deep affection for South Asian communities, as well as an essay by Divakaruni herself—a candid expression of her artistic independence in response to the didactic expectations of her many South Asian readers.

characters of the mahabharata: In Dialogue with the Mahābhārata Brian Black, 2020-09-15 The Mahābhārata has been explored extensively as a work of mythology, epic poetry, and religious literature, but the text's philosophical dimensions have largely been under-appreciated by Western scholars. This book explores the philosophical implications of the Mahābhārata by paying attention to the centrality of dialogue, both as the text's prevailing literary expression and its organising structure. Focusing on five sets of dialogues about controversial moral problems in the central story, this book shows that philosophical deliberation is an integral part of the narrative. Black argues that by paying attention to how characters make arguments and how dialogues unfold,

we can better appreciate the Mahābhārata's philosophical significance and its potential contribution to debates in comparative philosophy today. This is a fresh perspective on the Mahābhārata that will be of great interest to any scholar working in religious studies, Indian/South Asian religions, comparative philosophy, and world literature.

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