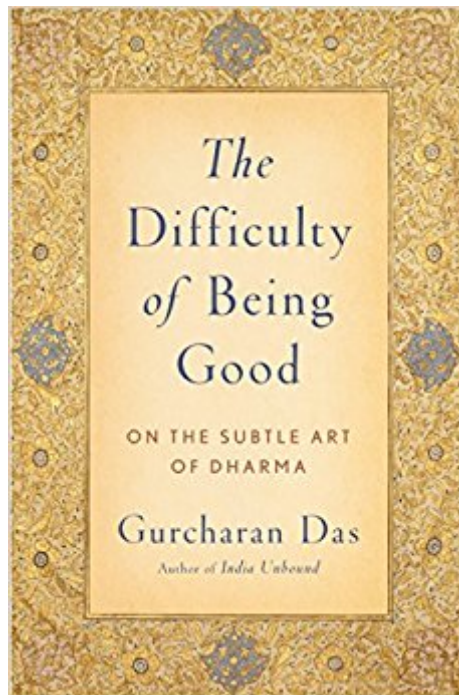


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# The Difficulty Of Being Good: On The Subtle Art Of Dharma



## Synopsis

Why should we be good? How should we be good? And how might we more deeply understand the moral and ethical failings--splashed across today's headlines--that have not only destroyed individual lives but caused widespread calamity as well, bringing communities, nations, and indeed the global economy to the brink of collapse? In *The Difficulty of Being Good*, Gurcharan Das seeks answers to these questions in an unlikely source: the 2,000 year-old Sanskrit epic, Mahabharata. A sprawling, witty, ironic, and delightful poem, the Mahabharata is obsessed with the elusive notion of dharma--in essence, doing the right thing. When a hero does something wrong in a Greek epic, he wastes little time on self-reflection; when a hero falters in the Mahabharata, the action stops and everyone weighs in with a different and often contradictory take on dharma. Each major character in the epic embodies a significant moral failing or virtue, and their struggles mirror with uncanny precision our own familiar emotions of anxiety, courage, despair, remorse, envy, compassion, vengefulness, and duty. Das explores the Mahabharata from many perspectives and compares the successes and failures of the poem's characters to those of contemporary individuals, many of them highly visible players in the world of economics, business, and politics. In every case, he finds striking parallels that carry lessons for everyone faced with ethical and moral dilemmas in today's complex world. Written with the flair and seemingly effortless erudition that have made Gurcharan Das a bestselling author around the world--and enlivened by Das's forthright discussion of his own personal search for a more meaningful life--*The Difficulty of Being Good* shines the light of an ancient poem on the most challenging moral ambiguities of modern life.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I suppose I misread what this book was truly about. I really tried to get into it, but just couldn't. It will be shared with someone else.

I have read at least 4 different versions of Mahabharata & every time I had finished with unresolved questions. I used to have questions specially around Krishna, Karna & Bhishma. This book has helped answer a lot of those questions. Just to give an e.g. I used to always wonder why did Bhishma, a great warrior remain a mute witness to what happened with Draupadi after the dice game. This books sheds a lot of light on that event.If anyone wants to really "understand" Mahabharata, this is the book for you. Go for it!!

This is an excellent read and this review will not do it justice but I am compelled to say at least something having recommended it to a number of friends and family. With the ancient Mahabharata as the theme and background, the admirable author explains characteristics of humankind that were true then and are true now. The book is non-judgemental and helps reconcile our instincts and feelings those that may be considered to be good and bad and it plays out religion in the same way, providing considerable freedom to those with a secular approach and those that have a faith in a religion, any, faith. It raises consciousness that frees one to act and hopefully be Good.

This is a book worth reading in these times when the line between good and bad has become more obscured than ever. Gurcharan Das has not only succeeded in bringing an old epic story of the east into a contemporary global context, but in the process has also written a thought provoking treatise on ethical/moral/psychological issues confronting the modern man. At places in the book I wished that the discussion woud get deeper into philosophical and psychological dimensions rather than political/current events perspectives, but that is a personal preference. I would highly recommend this book to any one interested in how an ancient story can reveal the stubborn-ness of human

conflict.

Great work. My compliments. Meticulous research and wonderful linkages to current day difficulties in business management and personal soul-searching. As a teacher of Political and Corporate Governance and Ethics at IIM Ahmedabad and elsewhere, I consider this book value-adding additional reading.

I am nobody to make a comment on Such a GREAT book from a world famous author. It is really good and as the Title shows it gives all the information to learn how to be GOOD

I have read it umpteen times and gifted more than 20 copies. Every read is a pleasure. Was never a great fan of Gurcharan Das, so when i read it, it was with great hesitation. Would recommend it a constant companion. Thank you Gurcharan ji, for changing my opinion about you.

This book doesn't seek to provide many answers and in true allegiance to the book it is based on, it rather gives us more questions to ponder. It takes the reader down a mysterious path, inviting to solve the mystery oneself. After all, it is our life that is in question and it is for each of us to discover for ourselves what it means to be Good. Loved it.

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