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## Echoes of Valor: A Literary and Analytical Study of 'The Unsung Heroes'

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### Preface

Throughout history, countless individuals have laid down their lives in service to their nation, driven by duty, honor, and a deep sense of responsibility. Yet, many of these sacrifices fade into obscurity, overshadowed by the fleeting glamour of entertainment and sports. *The Unsung Heroes* is a poetic tribute to these forgotten warriors—the soldiers who endure harsh conditions, relentless battles, and lifelong suffering, yet remain unrecognized by the very society they protect.

This poem delves into the contrast between true selflessness and the misplaced priorities of modern civilization. It echoes the wisdom of the *Bhagavad Gita*, which upholds the ideal of Nishkama Karma (selfless duty), and the teachings of the *Vedas* and *Upanishads*, which glorify sacrifice and righteousness. The poem is not merely a reflection on the soldier's journey but also a wake-up call, urging society to acknowledge and honor those who uphold its safety and integrity.

By drawing attention to this grave oversight, the poem seeks to stir a collective conscience, fostering gratitude for those who give their all yet receive little in return. It is a call to recognize the true warriors of our time—those who defend, protect, and sacrifice without expectation of fame or fortune.

### 1. Literary Devices and Figures of Speech

Poets employ various literary devices to enrich meaning and evoke emotional depth. "The Unsung Heroes" incorporates multiple techniques to highlight the sacrifices and struggles of soldiers.

- **Metaphor:** "The poor rich soldier"—an ironic contrast portraying the soldier as rich in honor yet poor in material wealth.
- **Simile:** "With memories aglow, a glint in his eye"—compares the soldier's memories to something glowing, emphasizing their warmth and importance.
- **Personification:** "The country drools and craves"—assigns human attributes to a nation, symbolizing its obsession with entertainment over true sacrifice.
- **Imagery:** "Burnt or frozen in the barrack cells"—vividly describes the extreme conditions endured by soldiers.
- **Alliteration:** "Patrols with his gun, burnt or frozen in the barrack cells"—repetitive consonant sounds create rhythm and emphasis.
- **Irony:** "Not money, but honor mattered more"—contrasts the soldier's noble ideals with society's materialistic values.
- **Symbolism:** "Crores spent on adulation for cricketers and actors galore"—cricketers and actors symbolize society's misplaced priorities.

### 2. Structure and Form

- **Rhyme Scheme:** The poem follows an inconsistent pattern, blending rhymed and unrhymed lines, reflecting the unpredictable nature of a soldier's life.
- **Meter and Rhythm:** The lines vary in length and stress patterns, mirroring the emotional highs and lows of the subject matter.

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• **Stanza and Line Breaks:** The poem employs distinct stanzas to emphasize different aspects of a soldier's journey—from duty to neglect.

• **Enjambment:** "While men lay peacefully in their beds, The soldier patrols with his gun"—the continuation without pause heightens urgency.

### 3. Theme and Subject Matter

• **Sacrifice and Honor:** The poem underscores the selfless dedication of soldiers.

• **Societal Neglect:** It critiques how society forgets its real heroes while idolizing celebrities.

• **Patriotism vs. Materialism:** Highlights the contrast between true service and superficial adulation.

• **Mortality and Legacy:** Examines how soldiers' contributions fade over time.

### 4. Tone and Mood

• **Tone:** The poem starts with a **reverent and proud** tone, shifts to **melancholy**, and ends on a **critical** note.

• **Mood:** It evokes **sympathy, anger, and reflection**, urging readers to reconsider societal values.

### 5. Philosophical and Spiritual Interpretation

The *Unsung Heroes: An Alignment with Upanishadic and Vedantic Wisdom*

The poem *The Unsung Heroes* highlights the sacrifices of soldiers who dedicate their lives to protecting their nation, often without due recognition. This theme of selflessness, duty, honor, and the contrast between materialistic pursuits and true service aligns deeply with the wisdom of the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad Gita, Vachanamrut, and other sacred scriptures.

#### 1. Dharma and Duty (Bhagavad Gita & Upanishads)

In the Bhagavad Gita (Chapter 2, Verse 47), Lord Krishna tells Arjuna: "Karmanye vadhikaraste, ma phaleshu kadachana"<sup>i</sup> "You have the right to perform your duty, but not to the fruits thereof."

The poem reflects this principle, emphasizing how soldiers serve not for wealth but for honor, just as the Bhagavad Gita teaches about selfless action (Nishkama Karma). Soldiers uphold their Dharma (duty) without expecting rewards, similar to how Arjuna was urged to fight not for personal gain but for righteousness.

The *Taittiriya Upanishad* (1.11.1) also teaches: "Satyam vada, dharmam chara"<sup>ii</sup> "*Speak the truth, follow your Dharma.*" This aligns with the soldier's life—dedicated to truth, duty, and honor.

#### 2. The Concept of Sacrifice (Vedas & Shrimad Bhagavatam)

The *Rigveda* (10.90)<sup>iii</sup> describes the cosmic Purusha sacrifice, symbolizing that great achievements require self-offering. Soldiers, too, embody this cosmic principle by dedicating their lives for the greater good.

The *Shrimad Bhagavatam* (1.9.39)<sup>iv</sup> narrates Bhishma's sacrifice, who, despite his suffering, upheld Dharma on the battlefield. The poem echoes this sentiment, describing aging soldiers who are forgotten despite their sacrifices.

#### 3. Detachment from Materialism (Vachanamrut & Upanishads)

The poem questions society's obsession with celebrities while neglecting true heroes. This resonates with the Vachanamrut Gadhada I-38, where Bhagwan Swaminarayan warns against the fleeting nature of worldly pleasures and emphasizes devotion to selfless service.

Similarly, the *Mundaka Upanishad* (1.2.12) states: "Parikṣya lokān karmacitān brāhmaṇo nirvedam āyāt"<sup>v</sup>, meaning a wise person realizes that material achievements are temporary and seeks higher truth. Soldiers exemplify this wisdom by prioritizing duty over material wealth.

#### 4. Honoring True Heroes (Ethical & Social Perspective from Scriptures)

The *Mahabharata* (Shanti Parva) praises warriors who sacrifice for the protection of Dharma, stating that those who die in battle attain divine realms. However, the poem questions whether society values such sacrifices today.

The *Vachanamrut Gadhada* I-18 discusses the importance of recognizing saints and righteous individuals, a principle that can be extended to soldiers who dedicate their lives to righteousness.

The poem *The Unsung Heroes* is not just a lamentation but a call for justice, reminding us of our moral duty to honor those who serve selflessly. Its alignment with Vedantic wisdom is evident in its advocacy for Nishkama Karma (selfless duty), sacrifice, detachment from materialism, and respect for true Dharma.

By drawing from the *Bhagavad Gita*, *Vedas*, *Upanishads*, *Shrimad Bhagavatam*, and *Vachanamrut*, we see that the ideals reflected in the poem are deeply rooted in Sanatana Dharma. It urges society to realign its values, recognizing true service over transient fame, much like the wisdom imparted by our sacred texts.

#### 6. Historical and Cultural Context

• **Modern Wars:** The poem resonates with the sacrifices of soldiers in various conflicts.

• **Indian Democracy:** Critiques the focus on entertainment over real national service.

• **Colonial and Post-Colonial India:** The soldier's role has shifted, but neglect remains constant.

#### 7. Poet's Perspective and Emotional Mindset

• Likely inspired by **nationalism and disillusionment** with modern values.

• Expresses **respect, grief, and frustration** over the neglect of soldiers.

• Might have personal experiences or observations influencing the theme.

## 8. Target Audience and Purpose

- **Directed at:** General society, policymakers, and youth.
- **Purpose:** Creates awareness, evokes empathy, and calls for action.

## 9. Personal Interpretation

"The Unsung Heroes" presents a compelling critique of societal priorities. While soldiers sacrifice their lives for national security, society often disregards their contributions. This poem urges readers to honor real heroes, prompting reflection on ethical responsibility and patriotism. By drawing from literary beauty, historical context, and spiritual wisdom, it serves as both a tribute and a call for change.

## Conclusion

As we reflect on The Unsung Heroes, we are reminded of the silent sacrifices that go unnoticed in the rush of everyday life. Soldiers, who dedicate themselves to the service of their nation, embody the highest ideals of Dharma—duty without expectation, courage without fear, and sacrifice without recognition. Their unwavering commitment resonates deeply with the teachings of Sanatana Dharma, where the highest honor lies not in material wealth but in selfless service.

This poem serves as both a tribute and a challenge—an invitation for society to realign its values and extend its gratitude beyond transient celebrity worship to those who truly deserve our respect. In honoring these warriors, we not only do justice to their sacrifices but also reaffirm the eternal principles of righteousness that uphold humanity. May this poem inspire a renewed appreciation for the unseen and unheard, for the ones who stand guard while the world sleeps, and for the true heroes whose legacy is written not in gold, but in the silent echoes of duty and honor.

## Reference

- i कर्मण्येवाधिकारस्ते मा फलेषु कदाचन।  
मा कर्मफलहेतुर्भूर्मा ते सङ्गोऽस्त्वकर्मणि ॥ 47 ॥
- ii सत्यं वद, धर्मं चर
- iii सहस्रशीर्षा पुरुषः सहस्राक्षः सहस्रपात्।  
स भूमिं विश्वतो वृत्वात्यतिष्ठद्दशाङ्गुलम्॥
- iv विजयरथकुटुम्ब आत्ततोत्रे  
धृतहयरश्मिनि तच्छिद्येक्षणीये।  
भगवति रतिरस्तु मे मुमूर्षो-  
र्यमिह निरीक्ष्य हता गताः स्वरूपम् ॥ ३९ ॥
- v परीक्ष्य लोकान्कर्मचितान्ब्राह्मणो निर्वेदमायान्नास्त्यकृतः कृतेन।  
तद्विज्ञानार्थं स गुरुमेवाभिगच्छेत्समित्पाणिः श्रोत्रियं ब्रह्मनिष्ठम् ॥ १२ ॥