

## The Life of a Soldier

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A soldier is the pride of his nation. He defends the honor of his motherland with his life and blood. He has to rise above his own self to defend his nation. His profession brings out the best qualities in him like chivalry, discipline, team spirit, loyalty and steadfastness. His example serves as a beacon light to others who are tame and cowardly. His life is a source of inspiration to the youth of the nation. He has no politics in his makeup. He serves the nation to the best of his ability.

We love the soldier as much as, if not more than as the scholar, the statesman and the poet. The soldier embodies in himself the spirit of youth. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose lives in the memory of the Indian youth much more than Tilak or Tagore. The great and glorious part he played in the INA movement will be cherished by generation to come. The brave deeds of our soldiers at Kargil have become part of our folk love.

The life of a soldier is very tough and full of discipline. He has to be mentally and physically alert and keep his body in fine shape for any battles that may come up. His performance in the theatres of war has been heroic and daring. He is the finest specimen of humanity who is prepared to give the supreme sacrifice of his life for the lives of his fellow countrymen. He has to brave the tyrannies of nature and in thunder, lightning or rain, extreme hot or cold, in deserts, mountains or seas, day and night fight continuously for the sake of his nation. He has to sacrifice his family life, be away from his children, only to save the life of other children.

These days soldiers are involved in many other types of activities. They help civilians in fighting terrorism, communal violence, relief of floods, building of bridges, crop cutting, riot fighting, road building etc. The soldier is truly secular in character and serves people of all castes, creeds, religions. We should always salute our soldiers.

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The life of a soldier is based on selflessness and sacrifice. He is a great benefactor of the country and her people. We enjoy at our place doing our chores and the soldier guards us from an aggression from outside forces. The country goes on her developmental programme only when there is peace, and peace is brought by the sincere efforts of a soldier who guards our borders.

When the war breaks out, everybody is called up to do his duty to the nation; as Nelson said about his country, "England expects every Englishman to do his duty." This is true of all the countries. It was Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri who coined the slogan, "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan" during the war with Pakistan in 1965.

Shastri Ji rightly respected the contribution of the armed forces by giving the slogan to the nation. Farmer produces our foodstuff and the soldier protects us from both external and internal strifes.

A soldier is the real friend of the nation. Every one of us should have proper respect for him as it is he who writes the destiny of the country with his blood. How can we forget the great sacrifices of the soldiers in the Kargil conflict with Pakistan. How they got every inch of Indian land back to Indian is all a story of great adventure and heroism.

A soldier is the watchdog of the nation and is ready to perform any duty with which he may be entrusted, even at the cost of his life. his life is very hard and he obeys any order that may be given to him. Lord Tennyson has summed the life of a soldier in his most memorable and immortal poem. "The Charge of the Light Bridge".

**Theirs' not to make reply,  
Theirs' not to reason why,  
Theirs' but to do and die.**