

# Motives of Loyalty and Betrayal and Their Philosophical and Moral Principles

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**Abstract:** The concepts of loyalty and betrayal are central themes in literature, delving into the depths of the human condition and exploring the complexities of moral choices and human relationships. These concepts serve as a basic framework for understanding how people fulfill their obligations to themselves, others, and society, and how their choices affect broader philosophical and ethical issues. Loyalty is often described as a moral duty that individuals have towards others or towards their own principles and values. It represents loyalty to family, friends, country, or a particular cause. From a philosophical perspective, loyalty is seen as a virtue that strengthens social cohesion and personal integrity. In literature, loyalty is often described as a duty that goes beyond personal interests.

**Keywords:** Loyalty, work, betrayal, family, friend, homeland, human, epic, person.

**Introduction:** The concepts of loyalty and betrayal are central themes in literature, delving into the depths of the human condition and exploring the complexities of moral choices and human relationships.

was written in the 8th century BC and is a continuation of the epic poem "Iliad". This work describes the adventures of Odysseus, one of the Greek kings, the king of the island of Ithaca, on his way home after the Trojan War. "Odyssey" consists of 24 books, which tell about the various difficulties and mysterious events that Odysseus encountered during his long and arduous journey. The main theme of the epic is Odysseus' desire to return home to his wife Penelope and son Telemachus. During this journey, Odysseus encounters various dangers, including sirens, one-eyed giants such as Polyphemus, the sorceress Circe, and many other mythical creatures. The Odyssey shows that humans can overcome difficulties through willpower, intelligence, and risk-taking. The work also explores themes such as the human desire to return home, loyalty, love, and patience. Homer's epic "The Odyssey" is an important part of ancient Greek culture and mythology, and continues to have a great influence on world literature and art today. This work has been translated into many languages and is popular in

different parts of the world. Homer's epic "The Odyssey" explores the theme of betrayal in connection with loyalty and shows the complexity of human relationships. Betrayal is depicted as a factor that causes dramatic changes in the lives of the characters and affects their relationships.

The suitors who claim Odysseus' home are the most obvious example of treachery. They take advantage of Odysseus' absence on his long journey to try to force his wife Penelope to betray him. These suitors encroach not only on Odysseus' home, but also on his family and property. Their actions pose a great danger to Odysseus when he returns home, and they are punished at the end of the epic.

When Odysseus and his men face difficulties, some of the men lose their loyalty to Odysseus and betray him. For example, Odysseus warns them not to eat the meat of animals forbidden by Circe, but they ignore this warning, incurring the wrath of the gods. As a result, many of them die. This situation shows the consequences of distrust and betrayal towards heroes.

In the epic, traitors are punished for their actions. The suitors are killed by Odysseus, the warriors' treachery leads to their downfall, and Clytemnestra is executed by her son Orestes. This shows the harmful and

destructive consequences of betrayal. In the epic "The Odyssey", betrayal reveals the most vulnerable sides of humanity and emphasizes how important loyalty is. The work focuses on human moral decisions and their consequences through the conflict between loyalty and betrayal. Loyalty is also one of the most important themes in the epi, and it is highlighted by several main characters. Loyalty is emphasized as a human virtue throughout the epic, and its various manifestations are shown.

Odysseus' wife, Penelope, is depicted as a symbol of loyalty. She remains faithful to her husband despite his long absence. Penelope rejects many suitors while waiting for her husband to return. She refuses to marry Odysseus, believing that he is still alive, and demonstrates her loyalty. Her intelligence and loyalty are essential to Odysseus's return home, and her loyalty to her husband is ultimately rewarded.

In The Odyssey, loyalty is highly valued as a virtue, and the strength of this virtue determines the fate of the characters. One of the main ideas of the epic is that true loyalty and trust are tested over time and ultimately rewarded.

Nizami's romantic epic "Layli and Majnun" is the most vivid manifestation of loyalty and devotion. Majnun renounces all worldly things because of his love for Layli and remains faithful to her.

Nizami Ganjavi's epic poem "Layli and Majnun" is one of the most famous romantic works of Persian-Tajik literature, written in the 12th century. This epic is one of Nizami's five epic poems, known as "Panj Ganj" ("Five Treasures"). "Layli and Majnun" is originally based on a legend from Arabic folklore, which Nizami reworked in verse form and turned into a great literary work. The epic poem "Layli and Majnun" is the most vivid manifestation of loyalty and devotion. Majnun renounces all worldly things because of his love for Layli and remains faithful to her. The main plot of the epic develops around the tragic love story of two young people named Layli and Qais. Qais falls in love with Layli in his youth, and this love completely binds him to himself. He cannot live without Layla, and his love for her grows so strong that people call him "Majnun" (madman). Qais's father, worried about this love, tries to save him from this state, but Majnun's love for Layla only grows stronger. Layla's father, however, does not consider Qais suitable for his daughter and tries to separate them. As a result, Layla is forcibly married to another man, but she is not happy in this marriage. This situation ends tragically for Layla and Majnun: Layla dies in the agony of hijra, and Majnun dies at her grave and is buried next to his beloved.

The epic poem "Layli and Majnun" covers themes such

as love, sacrifice, and loyalty. Majnun's love for Layli is so pure and strong that he renounces all worldly things and devotes himself completely to this love. The epic also glorifies Layli's love, who loves Majnun with all her heart, but cannot be happy due to social pressures and her obedience to her parents' demands. The epic also reveals the conflict between love and reason. Majnun's love drives him insane, but through this it is elevated to the level of divine love. This love is accepted as a symbol of not only worldly but also divine love.

In the epic, the themes of betrayal and treachery are closely related to love and loyalty, and are depicted as an important factor that affects the lives and relationships of the characters throughout the work. Although betrayal is not directly depicted in the work, its theme is reflected in the events in the lives of the characters and their decisions. For example, the pure love between Qais (Majnun) and Layla is not recognized by their family and society. Layla and Qais love each other sincerely, but their love relationship is not accepted by the rules of society and Layla's parents. Layla's father, not considering Qais worthy of Layli, decides to marry her to another man. This is considered a betrayal of Layla's love for Majnun, because she is forced to give up her own desires and feelings. Or, Layla's marriage to another man, Sayyid ibn Salam, can be interpreted as a specific form of betrayal. Although Layla did not agree to this marriage, she is forced to submit to it under the pressure of society and her parents. This situation is a betrayal by society against the pure love of Layla and Majnun. Layla will not be happy in this marriage, because her heart is still connected to Majnun.

Despite the fact that Layla has married someone else, Majnun remains faithful to her. He does not give up his love for Layla, and even her being with someone else does not change Majnun's loyalty. There is an abstract aspect of betrayal here: even though Layla's marriage to someone else seems like betrayal to Majnun, he understands Layla's situation and remains faithful to her love. In the epic, Nizami does not directly condemn betrayal, but rather presents it as a complex balance between a person's personal choice and the influence of society. Layla's forced marriage, her parents' marriage to someone else, Majnun's inability to forget Layla and be with her - all these illuminate the subtle and abstract aspects of betrayal. The subtle aspects of betrayal and the tragedy of Layla and Majnun's love reflect the conflict between society and personal feelings in the epic. Betrayal and the attitude towards it raise deep philosophical and moral questions in the work: is the true happiness of a person in personal freedom or in submission to the demands of society? The love of Layla and Majnun and the tragedies they

endure provide a unique answer to these questions. Moreover, in the epic poem "Layla and Majnun"\*, the issue of betrayal reveals the contradictory aspects of love and loyalty. Through this, Nizami describes the place of a person in society and the power of personal feelings, and deeply illuminates the complexities of human life.

In general, the epic poem "Layli and Majnun" is a timeless work of love and devotion, captivating readers with its deep philosophical content, high artistry, and deep emotions.

Loyalty to family and tradition also plays an important role in the play. Both Romeo and Juliet are forced to be loyal to the traditions and values of their families. However, this loyalty comes at the expense of their personal happiness. Juliet's parents force her to marry Paris, hindering her loyalty to Romeo.

Although there is no specific example of Paris' betrayal of Juliet, he acts out of a desire to marry her, ignoring her feelings. He has an affair with Juliet's parents to gain her approval, unaware that she has no feelings for Paris. The theme of betrayal in the play reveals the complex relationship between love, family loyalty, and social obligations. Betrayal is one of the main reasons that lead to the characters' personal decisions and their tragic fates.

In Romeo and Juliet, loyalty and betrayal reflect the complexity of human nature, the balance between feelings and obligations. The tragic ending in the play encourages deep reflection on the power of loyalty and the consequences of betrayal. By contrasting these two concepts, Shakespeare reveals the depth and fragility of human relationships, as well as the dangers associated with them.

"Anna Karenina" - Leo Tolstoy : In this work, the issue of loyalty is reflected in the lives of various characters. Anna Karenina's relationships, the strict rules of society, and issues of loyalty are closely intertwined. The work is one of the greatest and most famous novels of 19th-century Russian literature. The work was first published in 1877 and has retained its place in world literature and culture to this day. The novel explores issues related to love, betrayal, family life, and moral values in society. The work covers the following topics: deeply analyzes the place of love and passion in human life. The relationship between Anna and Vronsky shows the consequences of betrayal committed for the sake of love, which destroys their lives.

- Society and Morality: The play explores the moral values of society, especially the demands placed on women. Anna goes against the rules of society and is severely punished for it. This situation shows the

hypocrisy of society and the injustice it inflicts on its members.

- Family life and marriage: The play depicts different types of marital relationships. Anna's relationship ends tragically, but Levin and Kitty's relationship is happy and stable, emphasizing the importance of family life.

- Village and city life: Tolstoy prefers village life over city life. Levin's simple and hard-working life in the village is contrasted with the complexity and artificiality of city life.

In Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina, the issue of loyalty is a major theme, playing a central role in the relationships and life decisions of the various characters. The work explores and illuminates the complexities of different forms of loyalty—love, marriage, friendship, and loyalty to society.

In Leo Tolstoy's novel "Anna Karenina", the conflict between loyalty and betrayal plays an important role in the lives of the characters and their relationships with society. These conflicts cause sharp dramatic events in the work and determine the internal struggles of the characters and their fates. Below I will provide more detailed information about the main points where loyalty and betrayal collide in the work:

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, in the novel "Anna Karenina" betrayal and loyalty are depicted as complex and opposing forces. Betrayal, arising from human passions and the desire for personal freedom, leads to disastrous consequences, isolates people from society, subjecting them to internal suffering and despair. Loyalty, on the other hand, is shown as a moral virtue necessary for achieving stability, true love, and family happiness. Exploring these two concepts, Tolstoy deeply analyzes their place in human life, complex relationships in society, and the conflicts on the path to achieving personal happiness. The work sheds light on how betrayal and loyalty affect human life and relationships, as well as their moral and spiritual consequences.

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