

VERSE: OPTIMUS

"Optimus," a verse from "Legends and Lyrics - Second Series," eloquently conveys the theme of altruism over personal glory. It begins by warning against a deceptive snare that appeals to the noble-hearted with the allure of doing good, which, despite its appealing façade, misguides by advocating for the assumption of duties not meant for oneself. The verse portrays this temptation as a false angel, advocating for action when one finds others failing in their duties or when great tasks remain unaddressed, attributing silence and inaction to others' sloth or fear, urging the individual to undertake the tasks themselves.

However, the poem swiftly counters this temptation with a call to recognize the sacredness of individual responsibilities. It emphasizes that each person is called to their unique duties, and one must not overstep by taking on tasks assigned to others, no matter how noble the intention. Instead, it suggests a more virtuous path: to awaken and encourage others to fulfill their obligations, highlighting that facilitating and supporting others in their duties can be equally, if not more, noble.

The verse stresses the importance of empowering others—by clarifying their responsibilities, aiding their preparation, and offering encouragement—and posits that such support not only fulfills a divine intention but also brings a deeper satisfaction than achieving personal accolades. The poem concludes by suggesting that by prioritizing others' success over one's own achievements, one attains a purer, more profound sense of accomplishment and honor, aligning with divine virtues of selflessness and altruism. This narrative seamlessly blends moral instruction with poetic expression, advocating for a recognition of collective duty and individual limitation within the pursuit of righteousness.