

'Na hi prapaśyāmi mamāpanudyād yacchokamucchoṣaṇa-mindriyāṇām'—How sad I shall become, after the death of my kinsmen, when I am so much grieved after thinking of it! If I grieved over the loss of a kingdom, it might be overcome by gaining it. But I am grieved at thinking of the massacre of my kinsmen. If I gain a kingdom, it will rather enhance my grief, because who could enjoy the kingdom, after the death of my kinsmen? Therefore, undisputed sovereignty and an affluent kingdom on this earth and lordship over the gods cannot remove the grief, that is parching my senses.



Link:—What Arjuna did after saying that, even possession of material objects would not relieve him of his grief, is contained, in the verse that follows—

सञ्जय उवाच

एवमुक्त्वा हृषीकेशं गुडाकेशः परन्तप ।
न योत्स्य इति गोविन्दमुक्त्वा तूष्णीं बभूव ह ॥ ९ ॥

sañjaya uvāca

evamuktvā hr̥ṣīkeśam guḍākeśaḥ parantapa
na yotsya iti govindamuktvā tūṣṇīm babhūva ha

Sañjaya said:

O scorcher of enemies, after addressing the indwelling lord thus, Arjuna, the conqueror of sleep, said to Him, "I'll not fight", and became silent. 9

Comment:—

'Evamuktvā hr̥ṣīkeśam guḍākeśaḥ parantapa na yotsya iti govindamuktvā tūṣṇīm babhūva ha'—Arjuna honoured the Lord's word and wanted to obey it. But after thinking seriously, over what Lord Kṛṣṇa had said and applying his own mind to his thoughts, came to the conclusion, that war could result in

providing him with an affluent kingdom, honour and fame. But it would not wipe out his grief, worry and misery. Therefore, it was not befitting for him to wage war. So Arjuna speaks his mind in clear words "I'll not fight."

Having declared his decision not to fight, and having nothing more to say, Arjuna became quiet.



Link:— In the next verse, Sañjaya describes what happened, when Arjuna flatly refused to fight.

तमुवाच हृषीकेशः प्रहसन्निव भारत ।
सेनयोरुभयोर्मध्ये विषीदन्तमिदं वचः ॥ १० ॥

tamuvāca hr̥ṣīkeśaḥ prahasanniva bhārata
senayorubhayormadhye viṣīdantamidam vacaḥ

O Bhārata (Dhṛtarāṣṭra, born in Bharata dynasty), Śrī Kṛṣṇa, as if smiling, addressed the following words to the despondent Arjuna while in the midst of the two armies. 10

Comment:—

'Tamuvāca hr̥ṣīkeśaḥ prahasanniva bhārata senayorubhayormadhye viṣīdantamidam vacaḥ'—Arjuna filled with valour and enthusiasm, had entreated Lord Kṛṣṇa to place his chariot between the two armies, so that he could behold the warriors. It was befitting for Arjuna, to get ready for fighting which was his objective. But there, instead of waging war, he felt grieved. So Lord Kṛṣṇa, started the gospel of the Gītā.

'Prahasanniva'—(Smiling, as it were) means, that when Lord Kṛṣṇa perceived that Arjuna's enthusiasm for the war, had changed into grief, he smiled. Secondly, in the seventh verse he said, "Do instruct me who have, taken refuge in You". But in the ninth verse he says, "I'll not fight". So Lord Kṛṣṇa smiled, because the devotee who takes refuge in his preceptor, just becomes an instrument in the hands of his preceptor and a preceptor is fully