

to wage war. Secondly, he thinks that perhaps he has not been able to convey his feelings to Him. So in the next verse, Arjuna clearly expresses his feelings to Him, against the war.

न हि प्रपश्यामि ममापनुद्याद्
यच्छोकमुच्छोषणमिन्द्रियाणाम् ।
अवाप्य भूमावसपत्नमृद्धं
राज्यं सुराणामपि चाधिपत्यम् ॥ ८ ॥

na hi prapaśyāmi mamāpanudyād
yacchokamucchoṣaṇamindriyāṇām
avāpya bhūmāvasapatnamṛddhaṁ
rājyaṁ surāṇāmapi cādhipatyam

Even on obtaining undisputed sovereignty and an affluent kingdom on this earth as well as lordship over the gods in heaven, I do not see any remedy that can remove my grief, which withers my senses. 8

Comment:—

[Arjuna thinks Lord Kṛṣṇa, wants him to wage war, so that he may gain victory and kingdom, and thus his grief may be removed. But he is so grief stricken, that even the joy of victory, is not likely to remove his grief.]

'Avāpya bhūmāvasapatnamṛddhaṁ rājyaṁ'—Even if I obtain an undisputed sovereignty and affluent kingdom, on this earth, and my subjects become happy and prosperous, and I may have no enemy on the face of earth, it will fail to remove my grief.

'Surāṇāmapi cādhipatyam'—Not to talk of worldly pleasure, even lordship of Indra (the king of the gods) over the gods, cannot remove my worry and grief. In verses, thirty-two and thirty-three of the first chapter, Arjuna wanted to turn away from war, because of his attachment for his kinsmen. But here, he wants to turn away from war because he thinks that it is an obstacle, to salvation. So there is a lot of difference, between the two situations.

'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