

'Divyau śaṅkhau pradadhmatuḥ'—Lord Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna, loudly blew their conchs, which were glorious and divine.

Here, it. may be stated, that it was proper on the part of Bhīṣma to blow his conch first, because he was the field-marshal of the Kaurava-army. But how far was it justified on the part of Lord Kṛṣṇa, the chariot-driver of the Pāṇḍava-army, to blow the conch, when the field-marshal, Dhr̥ṣṭadyumna of the Pāṇḍava-army, was there? The answer, is that Lord Kṛṣṇa is ever chief, whether He works as a chariot-driver or a great chariot-warrior. He is ever great, whatever the rank He may hold, because His rank is 'Acyuta' (fixed), He never deviates from his divine nature. In Pāṇḍava-army, Lord Kṛṣṇa was the chief and director. Even when, he was a boy, Nanda and Upananda etc., obeyed him. Therefore, they, by obeying him, started to worship Govardhana, (a mountain), instead of Indra, the king of gods, who had been worshipped for generations. It means, that the Lord, in whatever state, place and circumstance, He may live, is ever the chief. Therefore, Lord Kṛṣṇa was the first in the Pāṇḍava-army, to blow his conch.

One, who is really inferior, regards himself as superior, after getting an appointment to a high post. On the contrary, one who is really superior is superior everywhere, and he elevates the post, at which he works. Thus, Lord Kṛṣṇa, while working as a chariot-driver, elevated that post.



Link:—Sañjaya in the next four verses, in explaining the previous verse and giving some more details, describes the blowing of conchs by other warriors.

पाञ्चजन्यं हृषीकेशो देवदत्तं धनञ्जयः ।

पौण्ड्रं दध्मौ महाशङ्खं भीमकर्मा वृकोदरः ॥ १५ ॥

pāñcajanyaṁ hr̥ṣīkeśo devadattaṁ dhanañjayaḥ
pauṇḍraṁ dadhmau mahāśaṅkhaṁ bhīmakarmā vṛkodaraḥ

Hṛṣikeśa (Śrī Kṛṣṇa), blew his conch named Pāñcajanya, Dhanañjaya (Arjuna), his conch called Devadatta; while Vṛkodara (Bhīma), of terrific deeds, blew his mighty conch the Pauṇḍra. 15

Comment:—

'Pāñcajanyaṁ hṛṣikeśaḥ'—'Hṛṣikeśa', means the master of mind and senses, Lord Kṛṣṇa who pervades the mind and intellect of all viz., who is acquainted with the hearts of all the people, arranged on the side of the Pāṇḍavas, blew his conch named Pāñcajanya. Lord Kṛṣṇa having killed demon named Pañcajana who appeared in the form of a conch, used him as a conch. So His conch was named as 'Pāñcajanya.'

'Devadattaṁ dhanañjayaḥ'—The word 'Dhanañjaya' means conqueror of wealth. At the time of the holy sacrifice named Rājasūya, Arjuna took over wealth of many rulers on gaining victory, over them. So Arjuna was called 'Dhanañjaya.*' Indra, the king of gods, gave Arjuna the conch named Devadatta, while he was fighting with demons named Nivātakavaca etc. It produced such a loud and horrifying sound that the army of the enemies became terror-struck. This conch was blown by Arjuna.

'Pauṇḍraṁ dadhmau mahāśaṅkhaṁ bhīmakarmā vṛkodaraḥ'—Bhīma, was named 'Bhīmakarmā' (doer of tremendous deeds) because he killed demons, such as Hiḍimba, Baka and Jaṭa etc., and valiant warriors, such as Kīcaka and Jarāsandha etc. In his belly, besides the heat which helps to digest food, there was a special fire, named 'Vṛka' which digested a lot of food, very easily. It was because of his great digestive power, that he was named 'Vṛkodara.' Thus, Bhīma who was the doer of terrific deeds and possessed strong digestive power, blew his mighty conch, Pauṇḍra.



अनन्तविजयं राजा कुन्तीपुत्रो युधिष्ठिरः ।

नकुलः सहदेवश्च सुघोषमणिपुष्पकौ ॥ १६ ॥

* Mahābhārata, Virāṭa. 44/13