

Second Chapter

INTRODUCTION

Duryodhana mentioned the great warriors of the two armies, but Droṇācārya did not utter a word. So Duryodhana became sad. Then, Bhīṣma blew his conch loudly to cheer Duryodhana. Hearing the sound of his conch, the conchs, drums and cow-horns etc., of the Kaurava and the Pāṇḍava armies blared forth. After this (from the twentieth verse) the dialogue between Lord Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna began.

Arjuna asked Lord Kṛṣṇa, to place his chariot in the midst of the two armies. The Lord, having placed the chariot between the two armies, in front of Bhīṣma and Droṇa etc., asked Arjuna to behold the Kurus. Having seen his kinsmen, he was filled with compassion and sadness, that he cast away his bow and arrows, and slumped into the seat of the chariot.

The second chapter starts with Sañjaya telling Dhṛtarāṣṭra, what Lord Kṛṣṇa had said to Arjuna, when he was overwhelmed with grief.

सञ्जय उवाच

तं तथा कृपयाविष्टमश्रुपूर्णाकुलेक्षणम् ।
विषीदन्तमिदं वाक्यमुवाच मधुसूदनः ॥ १ ॥

sañjaya uvāca

taṁ tathā kṛpayāviṣṭamaśrupūrṇākulekṣaṇam
viṣīdantamidaṁ vākyaṁuvāca madhusūdanaḥ

Sañjaya said:

Madhusūdana (He who destroyed the demon named Madhu), addressed the following words to Arjuna, who was overwhelmed with compassion and in deep distress and whose eyes were flooded with tears of despondence. 1

Comment:—

'*Taṁ tathā kṛpayāviṣṭam*'—Arjuna advises Lord Kṛṣṇa to place his chariot in between the two armies, so that he may behold the war-minded warriors who dared to risk their lives, by fighting against such a valiant warrior, as he. But the same heroic and zealous Arjuna, at the sight of his kinsmen, becomes overwhelmed with grief, his limbs give way, his mouth is parched, his body shivers, his hairs stand on end, his bow slips, from his hand, his skin burns all over and his mind reels. His bravery turns into faint-heartedness and he slips into the seat of the chariot. Sañjaya, conveys the same feelings of Arjuna, who was drowned in distress and despondency.

'*Aśrupūṛṇākulekṣaṇam*'—Such a valiant warrior, Arjuna was full of familial attachment and his eyes were full of tears, that he could not even see, clearly.

'*Viṣḍantamidam vākyamuvāca madhusūdanaḥ*'—Lord Kṛṣṇa (Madhusūdana), said the following words (the words which will be repeated in the second and third verses) to Arjuna, who was overwhelmed with grief because of his loss of courage.

Here, '*Viṣḍantamuvāca*' was enough, because the word '*Vākyam*' is also included in the verb '*Uvāca*'. But the word '*Vākyam*' has a special meaning. These words of Lord Kṛṣṇa, are very profound and uncommon. These attack Arjuna's faint-heartedness and despondency, which overpowered Arjuna, in the discharge of his duty. They make him aware of his weakness and arouse in him a desire for benediction. It is because of these profound words of Lord Kṛṣṇa, that Arjuna by becoming His disciple and seeks refuge in Him (2 / 7).

Sañjaya by using the word '*Madhusūdana*', means to say that Lord Kṛṣṇa is the killer of demon, Madhu i.e., He is the destroyer of people having a villainous nature, and so He will certainly destroy wicked natured Duryodhana, and his group.

