

*the dialogue in the next verse between Lord Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna, which is known as 'The Bhagavadgītā'.*

अथ व्यवस्थितान्द्रष्टा धार्तराष्ट्रान् कपिध्वजः ।

प्रवृत्ते शस्त्रसम्पाते धनुरुद्यम्य पाण्डवः ॥ २० ॥

हृषीकेशं तदा वाक्यमिदमाह महीपते ।

atha vyavasthitāndrṣṭvā dhārtarāṣṭrān kapidhvajaḥ  
pravṛtte śastrasampāte dhanurudyamya pāṇḍavaḥ  
hrṣīkeśam tadā vākyaṁidamāha mahīpate

Now, O Lord of the earth, seeing Dhṛtarāṣṭra's sons arrayed against him, and the fighting about to commence with missiles, Pāṇḍava (Arjuna) whose ensign bears the Hanumān, lifting his bow, spoke the following words, to Kṛṣṇa. 20

*Comment:—*

'Atha'—This word means, that now Sañjaya begins the Bhagavadgītā, in the form of a dialogue between Lord Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna. This dialogue, ends with the word 'Iti' used in the seventy-fourth verse of the eighteenth chapter. Similarly, the gospel of the Gītā begins, with the eleventh verse of the second chapter, and ends with sixty-sixth verse of the eighteenth chapter.

'Pravṛtte śastrasampāte'—Though Bhīṣma had blown his conch to cheer up Duryodhana, not to declare war, yet the Kaurava and Pāṇḍava armies thought that the war had been declared, and so they became ready with weapons and missiles in their hands. Seeing them equipped with weapons and missiles, Arjuna also lifted his bow, named Gāṇḍīva.

'Vyavasthitān dhārtarāṣṭrān drṣṭvā'—By these words Sañjaya means, "When your son Duryodhana saw the army of Pāṇḍavas, he fled to Dronācārya. But when Arjuna saw the army of Kauravas, he lifted his bow." 'Dhanurudyamya' (took his bow)—it shows, that Duryodhana was filled with fear, while Arjuna was fearless, courageous and valiant.

**'Kapīdhvajah'**—By using this epithet 'Kapīdhvajah', Sañjaya wants to remind Dhṛtarāṣṭra of Hanumān, sitting on the banner of Arjuna's chariot. When Pāṇḍavas used to live in the forest, one day suddenly, the wind dropped a divine lotus having a thousand leaves before Draupadī. She was very much pleased to see it, and she said to Bhīma, "O excellent among the brave, bring me several lotuses of this kind." Bhīma, started to satisfy her desire. When he reached the Kadalī forest, he happened to meet Hanumān. Both of them talked about many things. At last Hanumān desired to grant him a boon. Bhīma said, "May your kindness continue to be with me!" Hanumān said, "O son of wind-god, when uneasy by being injured with arrows and weapons, enter the army of the enemy and make a roar, I'll enhance that roar by adding my own power to it. Moreover, by sitting on the banner of Arjuna's chariot I'll make such a roar, that it will be deadly terrifying to your enemy, and you will gain a victory, over them and kill them very easily."\* Therefore, the victory of those, on whose banner Hanumān was sitting, was certain.

**'Pāṇḍavaḥ'**—Dhṛtarāṣṭra, used the word 'Pāṇḍavaḥ' in his question. Therefore, Sañjaya also used the word 'Pāṇḍavaḥ', several times (as in 1/14 and here in 1/20) to remind Dhṛtarāṣṭra of the Pāṇḍavas.

**'Hṛṣīkeśam tadā vākyamidamāha mahīpate'**—Duryodhana, seeing the army of Pāṇḍavas, approaching his preceptor Droṇa, spoke the words cleverly; while Arjuna seeing the army of Kauravas approaching Lord Kṛṣṇa, who is a world-teacher, who is acquainted with the hearts of all, and who is the inspirer of mind and intellect etc., spoke the words full of bravery, courage, and duty.

