

भवान्भीष्मश्च कर्णश्च कृपश्च समितिञ्जयः ।

अश्वत्थामा विकर्णश्च सौमदत्तिस्तथैव च ॥ ८ ॥

bhavānbhīṣmaśca karṇaśca kṛpaśca samitiñjayaḥ
aśvatthāmā vikarṇaśca saumadattistathaiva ca

Yourself, Bhīṣma, Karṇa and Kṛpa ever victorious in battle; and Aśvatthāmā, Vikarṇa and Saumadatti (Bhūriśravā), the son of Somadatta. 8

Comment:—

'Bhavānbhīṣmaśca'—You and Bhīṣma both are unique. So if you fight with your full vigour, neither the gods, genies, devils, nor men can encounter you. Both of you are famous for your valour throughout the world. Bhīṣma has been a celibate since birth and he cannot be killed, without his own will.

[In the Mahābhārata, Droṇācārya was killed by Dhṛṣṭadyumna, while Bhīṣma died during summer solstice, of his own free will.]

'Karṇaśca'—Karṇa is very brave. I believe, that he by himself can gain a victory over the army of the Pāṇḍavas. Even Arjuna, is no match for him. Such a valiant warrior is standing on our side.

[Karṇa was killed by Arjuna, in the war of Mahābhārata.]

'Kṛpaśca samitiñjayaḥ'—Kṛpa, is immortal.* He is our well-wisher and can gain victory over the whole army of the Pāṇḍavas. Though Duryodhana, after mentioning the names of Droṇācārya and Bhīṣma, should have named Kṛpācārya. Yet, Duryodhana had more faith in Karṇa, than in Kṛpācārya. So Karṇa's name was spontaneously uttered by him. But he wanted to please Droṇācārya and Bhīṣma by calling Kṛpācārya, as ever victorious in battle, lest they should regard it as an insult to Kṛpācārya.

'Aśvatthāmā'—He is also immortal. Being your son, he is

* Aśvatthāmā, Bali, Vedavyāsa, Hanumān, Vibhīṣaṇa, Kṛpa (Kṛpācārya), Paraśurāma and Mārkaṇḍeya—these eight are immortal. In the scripture it is written.

very valiant. He is well versed in the science of warfare as he has learnt it, from you.

'Vikarṇaśca saumadattistathaiva ca'—You should not think that only the Pāṇḍavas are righteous. On our side, my brother Vikarṇa is also very righteous and brave. Similarly Bhūriśravā, the grandson of our great grandfather's brother, Bāhlikā and the son of Somadatta, is also very righteous. He has also performed several holy sacrifices, by offering great gifts. He is also a very brave and great chariot-warrior.

[In the warfare, Vikarṇa was killed by Bhīma, and Bhūriśravā was killed by Sātyaki.]

Here, by mentioning these names Duryodhana means to say, "O preceptor (Ācārya), in our army, there are so many valiant warriors, such as you, Bhīṣma, Karṇa, Kṛpācārya etc., while in the army of the Pāṇḍavas, such valiant warriors are not seen. In our army, two great warriors named Kṛpācārya and Aśvatthāmā are immortal, while in the army of the Pāṇḍavas there is none. Moreover, in our army there is no scarcity of righteous persons, therefore, we need not be afraid of them.



अन्ये च बहवः शूरा मदर्थे त्यक्तजीविताः ।

नानाशस्त्रप्रहरणाः सर्वे युद्धविशारदाः ॥ ९ ॥

anye ca bahavaḥ śūrā madarthe tyaktajīvitāḥ
nānāśastrapraharaṇāḥ sarve yuddhaviśāradaḥ

And there are many other heroes well trained in warfare, who, equipped with various weapons and missiles, have staked their lives for my sake. 9

Comment:—

'Anye ca bahavaḥ śūrā madarthe tyaktajīvitāḥ'— Besides the above-mentioned heroes, there are many great chariot-warriors, such as Bāhlikā, Śalya, Bhagadatta, Jayadratha etc., in our army, who