

Then, seated as Madhava and Pandava were in their magnificent chariot yoked to white steeds, they gracefully blew their divine conchs. 14

Madhava is one of the thousand names attributed to Vishnu the preserving phase of Brahman. *mā* is Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and prosperity; *dhava* is the groom or the owner thereof. Vishnu is thus the Lord of Lakshmi. Madhava here refers to Sri Krishna, the embodied aspect of Vishnu. The grace of the Lord of Lakshmi has now come upon the Pandava brothers. It indicates that this righteous group will very soon have Vijaya Lakshmi—the goddess of victory and Rajya Lakshmi—the goddess of kingdom bestowed on it by the grace of Madhava.

Pandava means the son of Pandu. Any one of the five brothers may aptly be addressed as Pandava. Here this appellation applies to Arjuna in particular as he is always associated with Sri Krishna. The mythology of Bhagavatapurana has it that the sages Nara and Narayana of yore later incarnated as Arjuna and Sri Krishna.

पाञ्चजन्यं हृषीकेशो देवदत्तं धनंजयः ।

पौण्ड्रं दध्मौ महाशङ्खं भीमकर्मा वृकोदरः ॥ १५

पाञ्चजन्यम् हृषीक-ईशः देव-दत्तम् धनम्-जयः ।

पौण्ड्रम् दध्मौ महा-शङ्खम् भीम कर्मा वृक-उदरः ॥

pāñcajanyaṁ hr̥ṣīkeśo devadattaṁ dhananjayaḥ ।

paunḍraṁ dadhmau mahā saṅkhaṁ bhīma karmā

vṛkodaraḥ ॥

पाञ्चजन्यम् *pāñcajanyaṁ* (the conch named) Pan-
chajanya हृषीकेशः *hr̥ṣīkeśaḥ* (the Lord of the senses)