

*18. Drupada and the sons of Draupadi, O Lord of the Earth, and the son of Subhadra, the mighty armed, blew their respective conches.*

In the above verses we have the enumeration of the great *Maharathas*, battalion-commanders, who, with enthusiasm, loudly blew their conches, again and again, in an ascending cadence. The arrow that ultimately felled Bhishma in the *Mahabharata*-war came from *Shikhandi*. The charioteer of Krishna, who was also a battalion-commander in the Pandava army, was called Satyaki.

The report is being addressed to Dhritarashtra and it is indicated by Sanjaya's words, "Oh Lord of the earth."

*19. That tumultuous sound rent the hearts of (the people of) Dhritarashtra's party and made both heaven and earth reverberate.*

From the fourteenth stanza onwards Sanjaya gives us in all detail an exhaustive description of the Pandava forces, and he spares no pains to bring into the mind of Dhritarashtra a vivid understanding of the superiority of the Pandava forces. Perhaps, the minister hopes that his blind king will realise the disastrous end and, at least now, will send forth a command to stop the fratricidal war.