

Sanjaya is the name of Dhrtarashtra's minister. Literally the word Sanjaya means: he whose victory is decisive. True to his name, this minister had mastery over his mind and senses. He was not given to partiality or predisposition. Truthfulness and straightforwardness were his characteristics. Because of these virtues the sage Vyasa temporarily bestowed on him, the power to cognize intuitively all that took place at the war-front and he communicated them faithfully to his blind monarch. This was why Dhrtarashtra put this question to Sanjaya.

The conflict between the contending cousin-groups was too sharp to be squared up. One stood for righteousness and possessed legitimate claim to the kingdom. The other was out to usurp it, the rights of the rival, by foul means. In this circumstance, war became inevitable. Dhrtarashtra knew this; but blind as he was physically, in mind also he was such. He, therefore, resorted to wishful thinking. The field of Kurukshetra has had many holy sacrifices performed on it. It was therefore saturated with a spiritual atmosphere; and so there was the possibility of Yudhishtira, the eldest of the Pandava brothers, being influenced by this divine atmosphere and beating a retreat into the forest in preference to a sanguine warfare. In that case, the odium of usurping the kingdom and waging an unrighteous war would not fall on his covetous and deceitful sons. This was the mental climate in which this fond question was raised by Dhrtarashtra, the embodiment of indiscrimination.