

As a corollary to the utterance of Duryodhana, there is a fact to be taken into account, in regard to the lives of nations. That nation thrives best, which is compact, well-knit, trained and tuned to an ideal. The other nation, which is multitudinous, loosely-knit and divergent in outlook, lingers and vegetates.

अयनेषु च सर्वेषु यथाभागमवस्थिताः ।

भीष्ममेवामिरक्षन्तु भवन्तः सर्वे एव हि ॥ ११

अयनेषु च सर्वेषु यथा-भागम् अव-स्थिताः ।

भीष्मम् एव अभि-रक्षन्तु भवन्तः सर्वे एव हि ॥

*ayaneṣu ca sarveṣu yathā bhāgam avasthitāḥ ।*

*bhīṣmam evā 'bhirakṣantu bhavantaḥ sarva eva hi ॥*

अयनेषु *ayaneṣu* in the divisions of the army च *ca* and सर्वेषु *sarveṣu* in all यथा भागम् *yathā bhāgam* according to division अवस्थिताः *avasthitāḥ* being stationed भीष्मम् *bhīṣmam* Bhishma एव *eva* alone अभिरक्षन्तु *abhi raksantu* protect भवन्त *bhavantaḥ* ye सर्वे *sarve* all एव *eva* even हि *hi* indeed

Now all of you assume positions in your respective divisions and protect Bhishma alone, by all means. 11

Words always take the colour of a person's mind, wholesome or unwholesome. Duryodhana's instructions, put in other words, come to this: 'Since you all have no initiative and are even undependable, at least take directions from me and be of some use.'