

stepped the bounds of discretion. Perhaps the cold silence of the revered acharya spoke amply to Duryodhana.

*9. And many other heroes also who are determined to give up their lives for my sake, armed with various weapons and missiles, all well-skilled in battle.*

The incorrigible vanity of the dictatorial tyrant is amply clear when he arrogates to himself the stupendous honour that such a vast array of heroes had come ready to lay down their lives for "MY SAKE." To all careful students of the *Mahabharata*, it cannot be very difficult to estimate how many of these great veterans would have thrown in their lot with Duryodhana, had it not been for the fact that Bhishma --- the grandsire --- was fighting in the ranks of the Kauravas.

*10. This army of ours defended by Bhishma is insufficient, whereas that army of theirs defended by Bhima is sufficient. Or, This army of ours protected by Bhishma is unlimited, whereas that army of theirs protected by Bhima is limited.*

In the art of warfare, then known among the ancient Hindus, each army had, no doubt, a commander-in-chief, but it also had a powerful man of valour, courage and intelligence, who functioned as the "defender." In the Kaurava forces, Bhishma officiated as the "defender," and in the Pandava forces Bhima held the office.