

Your enemies will also slander your strength and speak many unseemly words. What could be more painful than that ? 36

When a man is well off in life, all his doings will be extolled as exemplary, but if there be a setback in his life, those very doings of his will suddenly become exposed to uncharitable criticism and slander. People who have been all along admiring Arjuna for his deeds of valour will not hesitate to belittle him and his deeds. The reputation that he has so far gained is well-grounded, indeed. But irreparable will be the ignominy that is bound to come if he failed in doing his duty. The very thought of Arjuna used to create a shudder in the hearts of his enemies. His very martial appearance on the battle-field has damped the war-zeal of his enemies. But if he happens to beat a retreat now, those trembling enemies will surely come to themselves again. More than that, their fear for Arjuna will immediately turn into ridicule of him. Their indulgence in insolent jokes would become unbearable. There is no alternative therefore, to waging the war that has been declared.

The grief stricken Arjuna contends that war is beset with plenty of evils. But what does the Lord say in the matter ? Here comes His say -

हतो वा प्राप्स्यसि स्वर्गं जित्वा वा भोक्ष्यसे महीम् ।
तस्मादुत्तिष्ठ कौन्तेय युद्धाय कृतनिश्चयः ॥ ३७

हत वा प्र प्राप्स्यसि स्वर्गम् जित्वा वा भोक्ष्यसे महीम् ।
तस्मात् उद तिष्ठ कौन्तेय युद्धाय कृत नि-श्चय ॥