

power-mad, greed-ridden men who had joined the forces of the Kauravas, supporting the palpably tyrannical and evidently unjust cause of the unscrupulous Duryodhana.

As we read the stanza, we can almost hear the great warrior's teeth grinding, as he spits out these hot words which express his mental estimate of his relentless cousins.

*Sanjaya said: 24. Thus addressed by Gudakesha, O Bharata, Hrishiksha, having stationed the best of chariots between the two armies;*

*25. In front of Bhishma and Drona, and all the rulers of the earth, he said, 'O Partha, behold these Kurus gathered together.*

At a point "facing Bhishma, Drona and all the rulers of the earth," the Divine Charioteer pulled up the reins and brought the royal chariot to a halt. As a dutiful driver, Krishna says to Arjuna, "Behold, O Partha! All the Kauravas gathered together." These are the only words that Krishna has spoken in the entire first chapter; and these represent the sparks that set fire to and brought down the egoistic edifice of false valuations which the great hero had built for himself as a splendid dwelling place for his personality. Hereafter, we shall find how Arjuna reacted to this great challenge and ultimately got his entire "within" wrecked and shattered.