#### साराँश

अर्ज्न का विषाद: प्रथम अध्याय में धृतराष्ट्र दिव्य दृष्टि वाले सञ्जय से युद्ध का हाल बताने का आग्रह करता है। सञ्जय युद्ध में उपस्थित सभी महारथियों का विस्तार पूर्वक वर्णन करता है और बताता है कि अर्जुन ने अपने सारथी योगेश्वर श्री कृष्ण से प्रार्थना की कि वह रथ को युद्ध क्षेत्र के बीच में ले जाए तािक अर्जुन युद्ध की इच्छा से आए सब योद्धाओं को देख सके। परन्तु युद्ध में उसके विरोध में लड़ रहे सभी रिश्तेदारों और मित्रों को देख अर्जुन मोह भ्रम में पड़ गया और उन सभी रिश्तेदारों से लड़ने और उनको मारने में अपनी असमर्थता जताते हुए, शोक में व्याकुल हो रथ के पिछले भाग में बैठ गया।

#### **Synopsis**

Arjuna's dilemma: In the first chapter King Dhṛitraaṣhṭra requests Sañjaya, the one blessed with the divine vision, to describe the current state of the battle ground. Sañjaya, after describing various warrior kings gathered there, shifts the focus to Kṛiṣhṇa and Arjuna. Arjuna requests his charioteer Kṛiṣhṇa to take the chariot in the middle of the battle ground so that he may see all of the warriors congregated for the battle. However, after seeing many of his relatives and friends on the opposing side, Arjuna is overtaken by grief. He expresses his inability to fight with and kill people near and dear to him, even when they are present there to support the vicious side. Displaying complete lack of interest in the war he quietly sits in the back portion of the chariot.

#### Commentary

The opening chapter sets the stage for the deliverance of eternal knowledge by Kṛiṣḥṇa.

In verse 1 king Dhṛitraaṣhṭra requests Sañjaya, the one blessed with divine vision, to describe the current state of the battle ground. It also points to the presence of an ancient Yogic or scientific system equivalent to or better than the current day television and video conferencing technology, which were invented recently in last few decades.

Verses 2 through 19 enumerate various acclaimed warriors gathered from each side, at the battle ground. It also introduces us to the age old customs, where the warriors followed the rules of the war, holding their attacks till the battle had formally begun. We also see the tradition of warriors sounding loud conch shells to make their presence felt. The conch shells were carefully chosen according to the warriors' personalities and statures. Each conch shell had a distinct sound and was named appropriately.

With the stage set for the battle, the drama starts to unfold in verse 20 through 24. Arjuna requests Kṛiṣhṇa to move the chariot to the middle of the battle ground in order to enable

him to take a look at all of the warriors. Standing there in middle of the two armies, the reality suddenly hits this acclaimed archer. The battle he is going to undertake will not be a simple show of force and weaponry skills. It comes with a great emotional cost as well.

Verses 25-47 provide details of Arjuna's emotional state. After seeing his nears and dears ready to fight against him, he suddenly becomes disillusioned and starts to justify his pulling out of the battle, even if that meant continued sorrow and humiliation for him and his family for the rest of their lives.

In these verses we also learn about the elaborate kinship system prevalent in India, where each relation has a definite name. All uncles, aunts, cousins etc. are referred to with words that would describe the exact relationship. It also points to the generality of relations, where a relationship may exist between two individuals even when they are actually not related. For example "maatula" the mother's brother, does not have to be the sibling of one's own mother. He could be some other equivalent like a friend or cousin of maatula or even a maatula of someone who is equivalent of a brother, for example a cousin or a friend.

#### The Text

(Dhṛitaraaṣhṭra) Dhṛitaraaṣhṭra (uvaacha) asked, (sañjaya) "O Sañjaya! (samavetaaḥ) Congregated (yuyutsavaḥ) with the desire to fight, (kurukṣhetre) in the fields of kurukṣhetra, (dharmakṣhetre) a land where the truth has always prevailed, (kim) what (akurvata) did (maamakaaḥ) my sons (cha) and (paaṇḍavaaḥ) Paaṇḍu's sons (eva) as well, do?" <sup>1</sup>

(Sañjaya) Sañjaya (uvaacha) described that, (tadaa tu) after (dṛiṣhṭvaa) seeing (vyooḍhan) the formation (paaṇḍava-aneekam) of the Paaṇḍavas' army, (raajaa) King

<sup>1</sup> धृतराष्ट्र उवाच

धर्मक्षेत्रे कुरुक्षेत्रे समवेता युयुत्सवः।

मामकाः पाण्डवाश्चैव किमकुर्वत सञ्जय ॥१॥

धर्मक्षेत्रे । कुरुक्षेत्रे । समवेताः । युयुत्सवः ॥ मामकाः । पाण्डवाः । च । एव । किम् । अकुर्वत । सञ्जय ॥

#### dhritaraashtra uvaacha

1. dharmakshetre kurukshetre samavetaa yuyutsavah, maamakaah paandavaashchaiva kimakurvata Sañjaya.

dharma-kṣhetre kuru-kṣhetre samavetaaḥ yuyutsavaḥ, maamakaaḥ paaṇḍavaaḥ cha eva kim akurvata sañjaya.

(duryodhanaḥ) Duryodhana (upasaṅgamya) went near (aachaaryam) his teacher Droṇa and (abraveet) spoke (vachanam) these words.<sup>2</sup>

Duryodhana said, (aachaarya) "O teacher! (pashya) Take a look (etaam) at this (mahateem) big (chamoom) army (paaṇḍu-putraaṇaam) of Paaṇḍu's sons, (vyooḍhaam) the formation which, has been designed by (tava) your (dheemataa) intelligent (shiṣhyeṇa) disciple (drupada-putreṇa) Dṛiṣhṭadyumna, the son of King Drupada."<sup>3</sup>

"In order to support the Paaṇḍavas (yudhi) in the battle, (atra) here are present many (shooraaḥ) brave and (maheṣhvaasaaḥ) expert archers and (mahaarathaḥ) charioteers like, (yuyudhaanaḥ) King Saatyaki, (viraaṭaḥ) King Viraaṭa (cha) and (drupadaḥ) King Drupada. Every one of them is (samaaḥ) equal in caliber as (bheema-arjuna) Bheema and Arjuna."4

2 सञ्जय उवाच

### दृष्ट्वा तु पाण्डवानीकं व्यूढं दुर्योधनस्तदा। आचार्यमुपसंगम्य राजा वचनमब्रवीत्॥२॥

दृष्ट्वा। तु। पाण्डवानीकम्। व्यूढम्। दुर्योधनः। तदा॥ आचार्यम्। उपसंगम्य। राजा। वचनम्। अब्रवीत्॥ sañjaya uvaacha

 dṛiṣhṭvaa tu paaṇḍavaaneekam vyooḍhan duryodhanastadaa, aachaaryamupasaṅgamya raajaa vachanamabraveet

dṛiṣhṭvaa tu paaṇḍava-aneekam vyooḍham duryodhanaḥ tadaa, aachaaryam upasaṅgamya raajaa vachanam abraveet.

## <sup>3</sup> पश्यैतां पाण्डुपुत्राणामाचार्य महतीं चमूम् । व्यूढां द्रुपदपुत्रेण तव शिष्येण धीमता ॥३॥

पश्य । एताम् । पाण्डुपुत्राणाम् । आचार्य । महतीम् । चमूम् ॥ व्यूढाम् । द्रुपदपुत्रेण । तव । शिष्येण । धीमता ॥

3. pashyaitaam paaṇḍuputraaṇaamaachaarya mahateeñ chamoom, vyooḍhaan drupadaputreṇa tava shiṣhyeṇa dheemataa.

pashya etaam paandu-putraanaam aachaarya mahateem chamoom, vyoodhaam drupada-putrena tava shishyena dheemataa.

4 अत्र शूरा महेष्वासा भीमार्जुनसमा युधि । युयुधानो विराटश्च द्रुपदश्च महारथः ॥४॥

अत्र । शूराः । महेष्वासाः । भीमार्जुनसमाः । युधि ॥ युयुधानः । विराटः । च । द्रुपदः । च । महारथः ॥

"Various (veeryavaan) strong and (narapuṅgavaḥ) topmost warriors of the human race, that are present here include, (dhṛiṣhṭaketuḥ) the king of Chedi clan Dhṛiṣhṭaketu, (chekitaanaḥ) King Chekitaana, (kaashiraajaḥ) the king of Kaashee, (purujit) King Purujit, (kuntibhojaḥ) Kunti's godfather King Kuntibhoja, (cha) and (shaivyaḥ) Shaivya, the king of the Shivi clan." 5

"Other warriors are (yudhaamanyuḥ) King Yudhaamanyu, (cha) (vikraantaḥ) brave (uttamaujaaḥ) King Uttamaujaa, (cha) (saubhadraḥ) Subhadraa's (veeryavaan) strong son Abhimanyu, (cha) and (draupadeyaaḥ) Draupadi's five sons; (sarve) all of these are (eva) indeed (mahaarathaaḥ) acclaimed."

"Duryodhana continues, (dvijottama) "O best in the brahmaṇas! Now (nibodha) get to know (taan) these (naayakaaḥ) leaders on (asmaakam) our side (tu) as well, (ye) who

4. atra shooraa maheshvaasaa bheemaarjunasamaa yudhi, yuyudhaano viraatashcha drupadashcha mahaarathah.

atra shooraaḥ maheṣhvaasaaḥ bheema-arjuna-samaaḥ yudhi, yuyudhaanaḥ viraaṭaḥ cha drupadaḥ cha mahaarathaḥ.

ृधृष्टकेतुश्चेकितानः काशिराजश्च वीर्यवान्। पुरुजित् कुन्तिभोजश्च शैव्यश्च नरपुंगवः॥५॥

धृष्टकेतुः । चेकितानः । काशिराजः । च । वीर्यवान् ॥ पुरुजित् । कुन्तिभोजः । च । शैव्यः । च । नरपुंगवः ॥

 dhṛiṣhṭaketushchekitaanaḥ kaashiraajashcha veeryavaan, purujit kuntibhojashcha shaivyashcha narapuṅgavaḥ.

dhṛiṣhṭaketuḥ chekitaanaḥ kaashiraajaḥ cha veeryavaan, purujit kuntibhojaḥ cha shaivyaḥ cha narapuṅgavaḥ.

॰ युधामन्युश्च विक्रान्त उत्तमौजाश्च वीर्यवान् । सौभद्रो द्रौपदेयाश्च सर्व एव महारथाः ॥६॥

युधामन्युः । च । विक्रान्तः । उत्तमौजाः । च । वीर्यवान् ॥ सौभद्रः । द्रौपदेयाः । च । सर्वे । एव । महारथाः ॥

6. yudhaamanyushcha vikraanta uttamaujaashcha veeryavaan, saubhadro draupadeyaashcha sarva eva mahaarathaah.

yudhaamanyuḥ cha vikraantaḥ uttamaujaaḥ cha veeryavaan, saubhadraḥ draupadeyaaḥ cha sarve eva mahaarathaaḥ.

are (vishiṣhṭaaḥ) distinguished warriors, of (mama) my (sainyasya) army. (te) For your (sañjñaartham) knowledge (braveemi) I shall say (taan) about them now."<sup>7</sup>

(bhavaan) "Yourself, (cha) (bheeṣhmaḥ) Bheeṣhma, (cha) (karṇaḥ) karṇa, (cha) and (samitiñjayaḥ) victorious (kṛipaḥ) Kṛipaachaarya; (cha) and (tathaa eva) similarly (ashvatthaamaa) Ashvatthaamaa, (vikarṇaḥ) Vikarṇa (cha) and (saumadattiḥ) Saumadatti Bhoorishravaa, the son of King Somadatta of the Vaaheeka clan."

(cha) "And (anye) apart from these (bahavaḥ) many other (shooraa) brave warriors ready to (tyakta) renounce (jeeveetaaḥ) life (mad-arthe) for my sake. (sarve) All of them are (praharaṇaaḥ) experts in (naanaa) multiple (shastra) weapons and are (vishaaradaaḥ) masters of the (yuddha) art of battle."

### <sup>7</sup> अस्माकं तु विशिष्टा ये तान्निबोध द्विजोत्तम। नायका मम सैन्यस्य संज्ञार्थं तान् ब्रवीमि ते॥७॥

अस्माकम् । तु । विशिष्टाः । ये । तान् । निबोध । द्विजोत्तम ॥ नायकाः । मम । सैन्यस्य । संज्ञार्थम् । तान् । ब्रवीमि । ते ॥

7. asmaakan tu vishishtaa ye taannibodha dvijottama, naayakaa mama sainyasya sañjñaarthan taan braveemi te.

asmaakam tu vishishtaah ye taan nibodha dvijottama, naayakaah mama sainyasya sañjñaartham taan braveemi te.

# भवान् भीष्मश्च कर्णश्च कृपश्च समितिंजयः । अश्वत्थामा विकर्णश्च सौमदत्तिस्तथैव च ॥८॥

भवान् । भीष्मः । च । कर्णः । च । कृपः । च । सिमितिंजयः ॥ अश्वत्थामा । विकर्णः । च । सौमदत्तिः । तथा । एव । च ॥

8. bhavaan bheeshmashcha karnashcha kripashcha samitiñjayah, ashvatthaamaa vikarnashcha saumadattistathaiva cha.

bhavaan bheeshmaḥ cha karṇaḥ cha kṛipaḥ cha samitiñjayaḥ, ashvatthaamaa vikarṇaḥ cha saumadattiḥ tathaa eva cha.

<sup>9</sup> अन्ये च बहवः शूरा मदर्थे त्यक्तजीवीताः । नानाशस्त्रप्रहरणाः सर्वे युद्धविशारदाः ॥९॥

अन्ये । च । बहवः । शूराः । मदर्थे । त्यक्तजीवीताः ॥ नानाशस्त्रप्रहरणाः । सर्वे । युद्धविशारदाः ॥

(tat) "That is (asmaakam) our (aparyaaptam) countless (balam) army (abhirakṣhitam) which is under the protection of (bheeṣhma) Bheeṣhma. (tu idam) This is (eteṣhaam) their (paryaaptam) limited (balam) army (abhirakṣhitam) which is protected well by (bheema) Bheema."<sup>10</sup>

Duryodhana then instructed his army chiefs.

(cha) "And (sarva) all of (bhavantaḥ) you (avasthitaaḥ) hold (sarveṣhu) all of (ayaneṣhu) your posts (yathaa) as (bhaagam) assigned, and (hi) ensure (eva) that (bheeṣhmam) Bheeṣhma (abhirakṣhantu) is properly protected."<sup>11</sup>

Sañjaya continues with the live commentary.

9. anye cha bahavaḥ shooraa madarthe tyaktajeeveetaaḥ, naanaashastrapraharaṇaaḥ sarve yuddhavishaaradaaḥ.

anye cha bahavaḥ shooraaḥ mad-arthe tyakta-jeeveetaaḥ, naanaa-shastra-praharaṇaaḥ sarve yuddha-vishaaradaaḥ.

# अपर्याप्तं तदस्माकं बलं भीष्माभिरक्षितम् । पर्याप्तं त्विदमेतेषां बलं भीमाभिरक्षितम् ॥१०॥

अपर्याप्तम् । तत् । अस्माकम् । बलम् । भीष्माभिरक्षितम् ॥ पर्याप्तम् । तु । इदम् । एतेषाम् । बलम् । भीमाभिरक्षितम् ॥

10. aparyaaptan tadasmaakam balam bheeshmaabhirakshitam, paryaaptan tvidameteshaam balam bheemaabhirakshitam.

aparyaaptam tat asmaakam balam bheeshma-abhirakshitam, paryaaptam tu idam eteshaam balam bheema-abhirakshitam.

अयनेषु च सर्वेषु यथाभागमवस्थिताः ।
 भीष्ममेवाभिरक्षन्तु भवन्तः सर्व एव हि ॥११॥

अयनेषु । च । सर्वेषु । यथाभागम् । अवस्थिताः ॥ भीष्मम् । एव । अभिरक्षन्तु । भवन्तः । सर्वे । एव । हि ॥

11. ayaneşhu cha sarveşhu yathaabhaagamavasthitaaḥ, bheeşhmamevaabhirakşhantu bhavantaḥ sarva eva hi.

ayaneşhu cha sarveşhu yathaa-bhaagam avasthitaah, bheeşhmam eva abhi-rakşhantu bhavantah sarva eva hi.

Then (sañjanayan) to assure (tasya) his (Duryodhana's) (harṣham) happiness, (pitaamahaḥ) Bheeṣhma, (kuruvṛiddhaḥ) the elder of the Kuru clan who is (prataapavaan) radiant with aura, (vinadya) roared (uchchaiḥ) loudly (siṅhanaadam) like a lion and (dadhmau) sounded his (shaṅkham) conch shell.<sup>12</sup>

(tataḥ) After that (sahasaa eva) all of a sudden numerous (shaṅkhaaḥ) conch shells, (cha) (bheryaḥ) bugles (cha) and (paṇavaanaka-gomukhaaḥ) drums (abhyahanyanta) sounded together. (saḥ) That (shabdaḥ) noise (abhavat) became (tumulaḥ) very loud and frightening.<sup>13</sup>

(tataḥ) Then (sthitau) stationed in a (mahati) big (syandane) chariot which was (yukte) driven by (shvetaiḥ) white (hayaiḥ) horses, (maadhavaḥ) Kṛiṣhṇa (cha) and (paaṇḍavaḥ) Arjuna (pradadhmatuḥ) sounded their (divyau) divine (shaṅkhau) conch shells (eva) as well.<sup>14</sup>

12 तस्य संजनयन् हर्षं कुरुवृद्धः पितामहः।

सिंहनादं विनद्योच्चैः शंखं दध्मौ प्रतापवान् ॥१२॥

तस्य । संजनयन् । हर्षं । कुरुवृद्धः । पितामहः ॥ सिंहनादम् । विनद्य । उच्चैः । शंखम् । दध्मौ । प्रतापवान् ॥

12. tasya sañjanayan harṣhaṅ kuruvṛiddhaḥ pitaamahaḥ, siṅhanaadam vinadyochchaiḥ shaṅkhan dadhmau prataapavaan.

tasya sañjanayan harsham kuru-vriddhaḥ pitaamahaḥ, sinha-naadam vinadya uchchaiḥ shaṅkham dadhmau prataapavaan.

<sup>13</sup> ततः शंखाश्च भेर्यश्च पणवानकगोमुखाः । सहसैवाभ्यहन्यन्त स शब्दस्तुमुलोऽभवत् ॥१३॥

ततः । शंखाः । च । भेर्यः । च । पणवानकगोमुखाः ॥ सहसा । एव । अभ्यहन्यन्त । सः । शब्दः । तुमुलः । अभवत् ॥

13. tataḥ shaṅkhaashcha bheryashcha paṇavaanakagomukhaaḥ, sahasaivaabhyahanyanta sa shabdastumulo'bhavat.

tataḥ shaṅkhaaḥ cha bheryaḥ cha paṇavaanaka-gomukhaaḥ, sahasaa eva abhyahanyanta saḥ shabdaḥ tumulaḥ abhavat.

14 ततः श्वेतैर्हयैर्युक्ते महति स्यन्दने स्थितौ।

माधवः पाण्डवश्चैव दिव्यौ शंखौ प्रदध्मतुः ॥१४॥

ततः । श्वेतैः । हयैः । युक्ते । महति । स्यन्दने । स्थितौ ॥ माधवः । पाण्डवः । च । एव । दिव्यौ । शंखौ । प्रदध्मतुः ॥

14. tataḥ shvetair-hayair-yukte mahati syandane sthitau,

(hṛiṣhee-keshaḥ) Kṛiṣhṇa (dadhmau) sounded (paañcha-janyam) the conch shell named Paañchajanya and (dhanañjayaḥ) Arjuna sounded (devadattam) the conch shell named Devadatta; (bheema-karmaa) Heavy lifter Bheema (vṛikodaraḥ) who had a stomach like a wolf, sounded (mahaa-shaṅkham) a big conch shell (pauṇḍram) named Pauṇḍra.<sup>15</sup>

(kunteeputraḥ) Kuntee's son (raajaa) King (yudhiṣhṭhiraḥ) Yudhiṣhṭhira (ananta-vijayam) sounded the conch shell named Anantavijaya; (nakulaḥ) Nakula (cha) and (sahadevaḥ) Sahadeva sounded conch shells named (sughoṣha) Sughoṣha and (maṇipuṣhpakau) Maṇipuṣhpaka respectively.<sup>16</sup>

(kaashyaḥ) The king of Kaashee who (parameṣhvaasaḥ) possesses the best bows, (cha) (mahaa-rathaḥ) expert charioteer (shikhaṇḍee) shikhaṇḍee, (cha) (dhṛiṣhṭadyumnaḥ) Dhṛiṣhṭadyumna, (cha) (viraaṭaḥ) Viraaṭa, (cha) (aparaajitaḥ) undefeated (saatyakiḥ) Saatyaki, →¹7

#### maadhavah paandavash-cha-iva divyau shankhau pradadhmatuh.

tataḥ shvetaiḥ hayaiḥ yukte mahati syandane sthitau, maadhavaḥ paaṇḍavaḥ cha eva divyau shaṅkhau pradadhmatuḥ.

### 🗈 पाञ्चजन्यं हृषीकेशो देवदत्तं धनञ्जयः।

पौण्ड्रं दध्मौ महाशंखं भीमकर्मा वृकोदरः ॥१५॥

पाञ्चजन्यम् । हृषीकेशः । देवदत्तम् । धनञ्जयः ॥ पौण्ड्रम् । दध्मौ । महाशंखम् । भीमकर्मा । वृकोदरः ॥

15. paañchajanyan hṛiṣheekesho devadattan dhanañjayaḥ, pauṇḍran dadhmau mahaashankham bheemakarmaa vṛikodaraḥ.

paañcha-janyam hrishee-keshaḥ devadattam dhanañjayaḥ, pauṇḍram dadhmau mahaa-shaṅkham bheema-karmaa vrikodaraḥ.

## 16 अनन्तविजयं राजा कुन्तीपुत्रो युधिष्ठिरः । नकुलः सहदेवश्च सुघोषमणिपुष्पकौ ॥१६॥

अनन्तविजयम् । राजा । कुन्तीपुत्रः । युधिष्ठिरः ॥ नकुलः । सहदेवः । च । सुघोषमणिपुष्पकौ ॥

16. anantavijayan raajaa kunteeputro yudhishthirah, nakulah sahadevashcha sughoshamanipushpakau.

anantavijayam raajaa kuntee-putraḥ yudhiṣhṭhiraḥ, nakulaḥ sahadevaḥ cha sughoṣha-maṇipuṣhpakau.

17 काश्यश्च परमेष्वासः शिखण्डी च महारथः।

(drupadaḥ) King Drupada, (cha) (draupadeyaaḥ) Draupadi's sons (cha) and (saubhadraḥ) Subhadra's son Abhimanyu who (mahaabaahuḥ) possessed strong arms; (sarvashaḥ) everyone (dadhmuḥ) sounded their own (pṛithak pṛithak) separate (shaṅkhaan) conch shells. (pṛithivee-pate) O Ruler of the Earth, Dhṛitaraaṣḥṭra!<sup>18</sup>

(cha) And (saḥ) that (tumulaḥ) frightening (ghoṣhaḥ) sound, (vi anunaadayan) echoing through (nabhaḥ) the skies (cha) and (pṛithiveem) the earth (eva) as well, (vyadaarayat) induced fear (hṛidayaani) in the hearts of (dhaartaraaṣhṭraaṇaam) Dhṛitaraaṣhṭra's sons.<sup>19</sup>

(atha) After (dṛiṣhṭvaa) having a view of (dhaartaraaṣhṭraan) Dhṛitaraaṣhṭra's sons (vyavasthitaan) standing at their positions, (paaṇḍavaḥ) Arjuna, whose (kapidhvajaḥ)

### धृष्टद्युम्नो विराटश्च सात्यकिश्चापराजितः ॥१७॥

काश्यः । च । परमेष्वासः । शिखण्डी । च । महारथः ॥ धृष्टद्युम्नः । विराटः । च । सात्यकिः । च । अपराजितः ॥

17. kaashyashcha parameshvaasah shikhandee cha mahaarathah, dhrishtadyumno viraatashcha saatyakishchaaparaajitah.

kaashyaḥ cha parameṣhvaasaḥ shikhaṇḍee cha mahaa-rathaḥ, dhṛiṣhṭa-dyumnaḥ viraaṭaḥ cha saatyakiḥ cha aparaajitaḥ.

## इपदो द्रौपदेयाश्च सर्वशः पृथिवीपते।

सौभद्रश्च महाबाहुः शंखान्दध्मुः पृथक् पृथक् ॥१८॥

द्रुपदः । द्रौपदेयाः । च । सर्वशः । पृथिवीपते ॥ सौभद्रः । च । महाबाहुः । शंखान् । दध्मुः । पृथक् । पृथक् ॥

18. drupado draupadeyaashcha sarvashaḥ pṛithiveepate, saubhadrashcha mahaabaahuḥ shaṅkhaan dadhmuḥ pṛithak pṛithak.

drupadaḥ draupadeyaaḥ cha sarvashaḥ prithiveepate, saubhadrash-cha mahaabaahuḥ shaṅkhaan dadhmuḥ prithak prithak.

# म घोषो धार्तराष्ट्राणां हृदयानि व्यदारयत्।नभश्च पृथिवीं चैव तुमुलो व्यनुनादयन् ॥१९॥

सः । घोषः । धार्तराष्ट्राणाम् । हृदयानि । व्यदारयत् ॥ नभः । च । पृथिवीम् । च । एव । तुमुलः । वि । अनुनादयन् ॥

19. sa ghoṣho dhaartaraaṣhṭraaṇaaṅ hṛidayaani vyadaarayat, nabhashcha pṛithiveeñ chaiva tumulo vyanunaadayan.

saḥ ghoṣhaḥ dhaartaraaṣhṭraaṇaam hṛidayaani vyadaarayat, nabhaḥ cha pṛithiveem cha eva tumulaḥ vi anunaadayan.

flag bore the symbol of Hanumaana, (pravritte) started getting ready (sampaate) to use (shastra) his weapons and (udyamya) picked up (dhanuḥ) his bow.<sup>20</sup>

(mahee-pate) O King Dhṛitaraaṣhṭra! (tadaa) Then Arjuna (aaha) said (idam) these (vaakyam) words to (hṛiṣhee-kesham) Kṛiṣhṇa.

(Arjuna) Arjuna (uvaacha) said, (achyuta) "O unwavering Kṛiṣhṇa! Please take and (sthaapaya) establish (me) my (ratham) chariot (madhye) in the middle of (ubhayoḥ) both of the (senayoḥ) armies."<sup>21</sup>

(yaavad) "So that (aham) I (nireekṣhe) can carefully see and evaluate (etaan) everyone (avasthitaan) standing here (kaamaan) with a desire (yoddhu) of engaging in the battle, and (saha) with (kaiḥ) whom (mayaa) I (yoddhavyam) have to fight (asmin) in this (samudyame) effort for the (raṇa) battle."<sup>22</sup>

### 20 अथ व्यवस्थितान्दृष्ट्वा धार्तराष्ट्रान्कपिध्वजः । प्रवृत्ते शस्त्रसंपाते धनुरुद्यम्य पांडवः ॥२०॥

अथ । व्यवस्थितान् । दृष्ट्वा । धार्तराष्ट्रान् । कपिध्वजः ॥ प्रवृत्ते । शस्त्रसंपाते । धनुः । उद्यम्य । पांडवः ॥

20. atha vyavasthitaan dṛiṣhṭvaa dhaartaraaṣhṭraan kapidhvajaḥ, pravṛitte shastrasampaate dhanurudyamya paaṇḍavaḥ.

atha vyavasthitaan drishtvaa dhaartaraashtraan kapidhvajah, pravritte shastra-sampaate dhanuh udyamya paandavah.

### 21 हृषीकेशं तदा वाक्यमिदमाह महीपते।

अर्जुन उवाच

सेनयोरुभयोर्मध्ये रथं स्थापय मेऽच्युत ॥२१॥

हृषीकेशम् । तदा । वाक्यम् । इदम् । आह । महीपते ॥ सेनयोः । उभयोः । मध्ये । रथम् । स्थापय । मे । अच्युत ॥

21. hṛiṣheekeshan tadaa vaakyamidamaaha maheepate,

arjuna uvaacha

senayorubhayormadhye rathan sthaapaya me'chyuta.

hṛiṣhee-kesham tadaa vaakyam idam aaha mahee-pate, senayoḥ ubhayoḥ madhye ratham sthaapaya me achyuta.

<sup>22</sup> यावदेतान्निरीक्षेऽहं योद्धुकामानवस्थितान् । कैर्मया सह योद्धव्यम् अस्मिन् रणसमुद्यमे ॥२२॥

(aham) "I (avekṣhe) shall see (ete) those (yotsyamaanaan) warriors (ye) who (samaagataaḥ) have come (atra) here (yuddhe) for the battle, (chikeerṣhavaḥ) favoring and wishing (priya) well for the (durbuddheḥ) evil minded (dhaartaraaṣhṭrasya) sons of Dhṛitaraaṣḥṭra."<sup>23</sup>

(sañjaya) Sañjaya (uvaacha) said, (bhaarata) "O Dhṛitaraaṣhṭra! After (guḍaa-keshena) Arjuna (uktaḥ) said (evam) so, (hṛiṣhee-keshaḥ) Kṛiṣhṇa (sthaapayitvaa) established their (rathottamam) outstanding chariot (madhye) in the middle of (ubhayoḥ) both of the (senayoḥ) armies."<sup>24</sup>

यावत् । एतान् । निरीक्षे । अहम् । योद्धुकामान् । अवस्थितान् ॥ कैः । मया । सह । योद्धव्यम् । अस्मिन् । रणसमुद्यमे ॥

22. yaavadetaannireekshe'hañ yoddhukaamaanavasthitaan, kairmayaa saha yoddhavyamasmin raṇasamudyame.

yaavat etaan nireekshe aham yoddhu-kaamaan avasthitaan, kaih mayaa saha yoddhavyam asmin rana-samudyame.

<sup>23</sup> योत्स्यमानानवेक्षेऽहं य एतेऽत्र समागताः । धार्तराष्ट्रस्य दुर्बुद्धेर्युद्धे प्रियचिकीर्षवः ॥२३॥

योत्स्यमानान् । अवेक्षे । अहम् । ये । एते । अत्र । समागताः ॥ धार्तराष्ट्रस्य । दुर्बुद्धेः । युद्धे । प्रियचिकीर्षवः ॥

23. yotsyamaanaanavekshe'hañ ya ete'tra samaagataaḥ, dhaartaraashṭrasya durbuddheryuddhe priyachikeershavaḥ.

yotsyamaanaan avekshe aham ye ete atra samaagataah, dhaartaraashtrasya durbuddheh yuddhe priya-chikeershavah.

#### 24 सञ्जय उवाच

एवमुक्तो हृषीकेशो गुडाकेशेन भारत। सेनयोरुभयोर्मध्ये स्थापयित्वा रथोत्तमम् ॥२४॥

एवम् । उक्तः । हृषीकेशः । गुडाकेशेन । भारत ॥ सेनयोः । उभयोः । मध्ये । स्थापयित्वा । रथोत्तमम् ॥

sañjaya uvaacha

24. evamukto hṛiṣheekesho guḍaakeshena bhaarata, senayorubhayormadhye sthaapayitvaa rathottamam.

evam uktaḥ hṛiṣhee-keshaḥ guḍaa-keshena bhaarata, senayoḥ ubhayoḥ madhye sthaapayitvaa rathottamam.

After Stopping the chariot (pramukhataḥ) primarily in front of (bheeṣhma) Bheeṣhma and (droṇa) Droṇa, (cha) and then (sarveṣhaam) all other (maheekṣhitaam) kings as well, Kṛiṣhṇa (uvaacha) said; (paartha) "O Arjuna! (iti) These are the (kuroon) Kauravas' supportors, who are (samavetaan) gathered here. (pashya) Take a look at (etaan) them."<sup>25</sup>

\*In the next two shlokas all relationships are written in plural context, signifying the generality of relations discussed at the beginning of the chapter.

Sañjaya continues with the live commentary,

(atha) And (tatra) there (paarthaḥ) Arjuna (apashyat) saw (sthitaan) standing, his (pitreen) elders, (pitaa-mahaan) grandfathers, (aachaaryaan) teachers, (maatulaan) uncles, (bhraatreen) brothers, (putraan) sons, (pautraan) grandsons (tathaa) and (sakheen) friends,  $\Rightarrow$ <sup>26</sup>

(shvashuraan) father-in-laws\* (eva) as well (cha) and (suhṛidaḥ) friendly kings (api) too, (ubhayoḥ) in both of the (senayoḥ) armies. (kaunteyaḥ) Arjuna (sameekṣhya) saw

25 भीष्मद्रोणप्रमुखतः सर्वेषां च महीक्षिताम् । उवाच पार्थ पश्यैतान् समवेतान् कुरूनिति ॥२५॥

भीष्मद्रोणप्रमुखतः । सर्वेषाम् । च । महीक्षिताम् ॥ उवाच । पार्थ । पश्य । एतान् । समवेतान् । कुरून् । इति ॥

25. bheeshmadronapramukhatan sarveshaan cha maheekshitaam, uvaacha paartha pashyaitaan samavetaan kurooniti.

bheeşhma-droṇa-pramukhataḥ sarveşhaam cha maheekşhitaam, uvaacha paartha pashya etaan samavetaan kuroon iti.

26 तत्रापश्यत् स्थितान् पार्थः पितॄनथ पितामहान् । आचार्यान् मातुलान् भ्रातृन् पुत्रान् पौत्रान् सखींस्तथा ॥२६॥

तत्र । अपश्यत् । स्थितान् । पार्थः । पितॄन् । अथ । पितामहान् ॥ आचार्यान् । मातुलान् । भ्रातॄन् । पुत्रान् । पौत्रान् । सखीन् । तथा ॥

26. tatraapashyat sthitaan paarthaḥ pitreenatha pitaamahaan, aachaaryaan-maatulaan-bhraatreen-putraan-pautraan sakheenstathaa.

tatra apashyat sthitaan paarthah pitreen atha pitaa-mahaan, aachaaryaan maatulaan bhraatreen putraan pautraan sakheen tathaa.

(bandhoon) various friends and relatives, (sarvaan) all of (taan) them (avasthitaan) stations at different positions. (saḥ) He,  $\rightarrow$ <sup>27</sup>

(aaviṣhṭaḥ) filled with (parayaa) extreme (kṛipayaa) tenderheartedness and (viṣheedan) sorrow, (abraveet) said (idam) these words.

(Arjuna) Arjuna (uvaacha) said (kṛiṣhṇa) "O Kṛiṣhṇa! (dṛiṣhṭvaa) After seeing (svajanam) my own (samupasthitam) standing eagerly for (imam) this (yuyutsum) battle,  $\rightarrow$ <sup>28</sup>

(mama) my (gaatraaṇi) limbs (seedanti) are becoming immobilized, my (cha) (mukham) mouth (parishuṣhyati) feels dry, (cha) (me) my (shareere) body (vepathuḥ) is shivering (cha) and (romaharṣhaḥ) goosebumps (jaayate) are happening all over it."<sup>29</sup>

## 27 श्वशुरान् सुहृदश्चैव सेनयोरुभयोरपि।

तान् समीक्ष्य स कौन्तेयः सर्वान् बन्धूनवस्थितान् ॥२७॥

श्वशुरान् । सुहृदः । च । एव । सेनयोः । उभयोः । अपि ॥ तान् । समीक्ष्य । सः । कौन्तेयः । सर्वान् । बन्धून् । अवस्थितान् ॥

## 27. shvashuraan suhridashchaiva senayorubhayorapi, taan sameekshya sa kaunteyah sarvaan bandhoonavasthitaan.

shvashuraan suhridaḥ cha eva senayoḥ ubhayoḥ api, taan sameekṣhya saḥ kaunteyaḥ sarvaan bandhoon avasthitaan.

## 28 कृपया परयाऽऽविष्टो विषीदन्निदमब्रवीत्।

अर्जुन उवाच

## दृष्ट्वेमं स्वजनं कृष्ण युयुत्सुं समुपस्थितम् ॥२८॥

कृपया । परया । आविष्टः । विषीदन् । इदम् । अब्रवीत् ॥ दृष्ट्वा । इमम् । स्वजनम् । कृष्ण । युयुत्सुम् । समुपस्थितम् ॥

## 28. kṛipayaa parayaa"viṣhṭo viṣheedannidamabraveet, arjuna uvaacha

drishtveman svajanan krishna yuyutsun samupasthitam.

kṛipayaa parayaa aaviṣhṭaḥ viṣheedan idam abraveet, dṛiṣhṭvaa imam svajanam kṛiṣhṇa yuyutsum samupasthitam.

## शीदन्ति मम गात्राणि मुखं च परिशुष्यति । वेपथुश्च शरीरे मे रोमहर्षश्च जायते ॥२९॥

(gaaṇḍeevam) "The bow (sransate) is slipping (hastaat) from my hands (cha) and my (tvak) skin (paridahyate) is burning (eva) as well. (cha) (shaknomi) I can (na) not (avasthaatum) stand properly (cha) and feel (iva) as if (me) my (manaḥ) mind (bhramate) is disillusioned."30

(keshava) "O Kṛiṣhṇa! (cha) (pashyaami) I see (vipareetaani) inauspicious (nimittaani) signs (cha) and (na) don't (anupashyaami) see (shreyaḥ) any benefit (hatvaa) in killing (svajanam) my own (aahave) in this battle."<sup>31</sup>

(kṛiṣhṇa) "O Kṛiṣhṇa! I have (na) no (kaaṅkṣhe) desire left (vijayam) for victory; (cha) (na) neither (sukhaani) for the pleasures (cha) and nor (raajyam) for the kingdom. (govinda)

सीदन्ति । मम । गात्राणि । मुखम् । च । परिशुष्यति ॥ वेपथुः । च । शरीरे । मे । रोमहर्षः । च । जायते ॥

29. seedanti mama gaatraani mukhan cha parishushyati, vepathushcha shareere me romaharshashcha jaayate.

seedanti mama gaatraani mukham cha parishushyati, vepathuh cha shareere me romaharshah cha jaayate.

## 30 गांडीवं स्रंसते हस्तात् त्वक्चैव परिदह्यते । न च शक्नोम्यवस्थातुं भ्रमतीव च मे मनः ॥३०॥

गांडीवम् । स्रंसते । हस्तात् । त्वक् । च । एव । परिदह्यते ॥ न । च । शक्नोमि । अवस्थातुम् । भ्रमति । इव । च । मे । मनः ॥

30. gaandeevan sransate hastaat tvak-cha-iva paridahyate, na cha shaknomy-avasthaatum bhramate-eva cha me manah.

gaandeevam sransate hastaat tvak cha eva paridahyate, na cha shaknomi avasthaatum bhramato iya cha me manah.

# निमित्तानि च पश्यामि विपरीतानि केशव ।न च श्रेयोऽनुपश्यामि हत्वा स्वजनमाहवे ॥३१॥

निमित्तानि । च । पश्यामि । विपरीतानि । केशव ॥ न । च । श्रेयः । अनुपश्यामि । हत्वा । स्वजनम् । आहवे ॥

31. nimittaani cha pashyaami vipareetaani keshava, na cha shreyo'nupashyaami hatvaa svajanamaahave.

nimittaani cha pashyaami vipareetaani keshava, na cha shreyah anupashyaami hatvaa svajanam aahave.

O Kṛiṣhṇa! (kim) What do (nah) we (raajyena) do with the kingdom? (kim) What are (bhogaih) pleasures for? What is (vaa) even the purpose of our (jeevitena) life?" <sup>32</sup>

(yeṣhaam) "Those (arthe) for whom (naḥ) we (kaaṅkṣhitam) want (bhogaaḥ) the benefits (cha) and (sukhaani) pleasures (raajyam) of the kingdom, (te) they are (avasthitaaḥ) standing (ime) here, detached from their (dhanaani) wealth (cha) and ready to (tyaktvaa) give up their (praaṇaan) lives (yuddhe) in the battle." 33

(aachaaryaaḥ) "Teachers, (pitaraḥ) elders (cha) and (putraaḥ) sons (tathaa) as (eva) well, (pitaa-mahaaḥ) grandfathers, (maatulaaḥ) uncles, (shvashuraaḥ) father-in-laws, (pautraaḥ) grandsons, (shyaalaaḥ) brother-in-laws (tathaa) and (sambandhinaḥ)\* relatives."<sup>34</sup>

### 32 न काङ्क्षे विजयं कृष्ण न च राज्यं सुखानि च। किं नो राज्येन गोविन्द किं भोगैर्जीवितेन वा॥३२॥

न । काङ्क्षे । विजयम् । कृष्ण । न । च । राज्यम् । सुखानि । च ॥ किम् । नः । राज्येन । गोविन्द । किम् । भोगैः । जीवितेन । वा ॥

32. na kaankshe vijayan krishna na cha raajyan sukhaani cha, kin no raajyena govinda kim bhogairjeevitena vaa.

na kaankshe vijayam krishna na cha raajyam sukhaani cha, kim nah raajyena govinda kim bhogaih jeevitena vaa.

## 33 येषामर्थे काङ्क्षितं नो राज्यं भोगाः सुखानि च । त इमेऽवस्थिता युद्धे प्राणांस्त्यक्त्वा धनानि च ॥३३॥

येषाम् । अर्थे । काङ्क्षितम् । नः । राज्यम् । भोगाः । सुखानि । च ॥ ते । इमे । अवस्थिताः । युद्धे । प्राणान् । त्यक्त्वा । धनानि । च ॥

33. yeşhaamarthe kaankşhitan no raajyam bhogaan sukhaani cha, ta ime'vasthitaa yuddhe praanaanstyaktvaa dhanaani cha.

yeşhaam arthe kaankşhitam nah raajyam bhogaah sukhaani cha, te ime avasthitaah yuddhe praanaan tyaktvaa dhanaani cha.

34 आचार्याः पितरः पुत्रास्तथैव च पितामहाः।

मातुलाः श्वशुराः पौत्राः श्यालाः सम्बन्धिनस्तथा ॥३४॥

आचार्याः । पितरः । पुत्राः । तथा । एव । च । पितामहाः ॥ मातुलाः । श्वशुराः । पौत्राः । श्यालाः । सम्बन्धिनः । तथा

\*sambandhina would mean someone's child's parent-in-laws. There is no equivalent word for this relationship in English.

(madhusoodana) "O Kṛiṣhṇa! O slayer of the demon Madhu! If (ghnataḥ) I am killed by them (api) even then I (na) don't (ichchhaami) desire (hantum) to kill (etaan) them; not (api) even (hetoḥ) for (raajyasya) the rule over (trailokya) the three lokas i.e. the entire universe, (nu) then (kim) what is the control over (maheekṛite) just a kingdom on the earth worth!" 35

(janaardana) "O Kṛiṣhṇa! (kaa) What (preetiḥ) happiness will (naḥ) we (syaat) get (nihatya) after slaying (dhaartaraaṣhṭraan) Dhṛitaraaṣhṭra's sons? (hatvaa) Killing (etaan) these (aatataayinaḥ) oppressors (eva) will only (aashrayet) bring (asmaan) us (paapam) sins.<sup>36</sup>

## 34. aachaaryaaḥ pitaraḥ putraastathaiva cha pitaamahaaḥ, maatulaaḥ shvashuraaḥ pautraaḥ shyaalaaḥ sambandhinastathaa.

aachaaryaaḥ pitaraḥ putraaḥ tathaa eva cha pitaa-mahaaḥ, maatulaaḥ shvashuraaḥ pautraaḥ shyaalaaḥ sambandhinaḥ tathaa.

# उपतान्न हन्तुमिच्छामि घ्नतोऽपि मधुसूदन। अपि त्रैलोक्यराज्यस्य हेतोः किं नु महीकृते॥३५॥

एतान् । न । हन्तुम् । इच्छामि । घ्नतः । अपि । मधुसूदन ॥ अपि । त्रैलोक्यराज्यस्य । हेतोः । किम् । नु । महीकृते ॥

35. etaanna hantumichchhaami ghnato'pi madhusoodana, api trailokyaraajyasya hetoḥ kin nu maheekṛite.

etaan na hantum ichchhaami ghnataḥ api madhusoodana, api trailokya-raajyasya hetoḥ kim nu maheekṛite.

### 36 निहत्य धार्तराष्ट्रान्नः का प्रीतिः स्याज्जनार्दन । पापमेवाश्रयेदस्मान् हत्वैतानाततायिनः ॥३६॥

निहत्य । धार्तराष्ट्रान् । नः । का । प्रीतिः । स्यात् । जनार्दन ॥ पापम् । एव । आश्रयेत् । अस्मान् । हत्वा । एतान् । आततायिनः ॥

## 36. nihatya dhaartaraashtraannah kaa preetih syaajjanaardana, paapamevaashrayedasmaan hatvaitaanaatataayinah.

nihatya dhaartaraashtraan nah kaa preetih syaat janaardana, paapam eva aashrayet asmaan hatvaa etaan aatataayinah.

In Verse 36 Arjuna says that killing of the oppressors (*aatataayi*) would bring only sins. *Vasiṣhṭha Smṛiti* provides 6 definitions of an oppressor;

1st a person sabotaging or setting someone's home on fire,

2nd a person trying to poison someone,

3rd a person with weapons with the intention of murder or physical harm, 4th a robber,

5th a person trying to capture someone else's fertile land and 6th a person trying to abduct or molest a women.

Manusmriti calls for quick slaying of an oppressor in self defense, without much thought. However, Arjuna is looking at it from the perspective that violence is sinful and hence it cannot avenge a prior sin. He is still trying to justify love and compassion, knowing well that those attempts have already failed in past.

(tasmaat) "For this reason (maadhava) O Kṛiṣhṇa! (sva) our (baandhavaan) relatives and (dhaartaraaṣhṭraan) Dhṛitaraaṣhṭra's sons (na) don't (arhaaḥ) deserve (hantum) to be killed (vayam) by us. (katham) Tell us how (syaama) do we (hi) ensure (sukhinaḥ) happiness (hatvaa) after killing (svajanam) our own."<sup>37</sup>

(yadyapi) "Even though (ete) they, (upahata) having lost (chetasaḥ) their conscience (lobha) to greed, (na) can't (pashyanti) see (doṣham) the ills of (kulakṣhaya-kṛitam) destroying the family traditions (cha) and (paatakam) the sins of (drohe) betraying (mitra) the well-wishers." 38

## <sup>37</sup> तस्मान्नार्हा वयं हन्तुं धार्तराष्ट्रान् स्व बान्धवान् । स्वजनं हि कथं हत्वा सुखिनः स्याम माधव ॥३७॥

तस्मात् । न । अर्हाः । वयम् । हन्तुम् । धार्तराष्ट्रान् । स्वबान्धवान् ॥ स्वजनम् । हि । कथम् । हत्वा । सुखिनः । स्याम । माधव ॥

## 37. tasmaannaarhaa vayan hantun dhaartaraashtraan sva baandhavaan, svajanan hi kathan hatvaa sukhinan syaama maadhava.

tasmaat na arhaaḥ vayam hantum dhaartaraaṣhṭraan sva-baandhavaan, svajanam hi katham hatvaa sukhinaḥ syaama maadhava.

## अयद्यप्येते न पश्यन्ति लोभोपहतचेतसः । कुलक्षयकृतं दोषं मित्रद्रोहे च पातकम् ॥३८॥

यद्यपि । एते । न । पश्यन्ति । लोभोपहतचेतसः ॥ कुलक्षयकृतम् । दोषम् । मित्रद्रोहे । च । पातकम् ॥

(janaardana) "O Kṛiṣhṇa! (katham) Why (na) shouldn't (asmaabhiḥ) we (jñeyam) think about (nivarttitum) staying away from (asmaat) this (doṣham) ill of (kulakṣhaya-kṛitam) destroying the family values, (prapashyadbhiḥ) which clearly is a (paapaat) sin."<sup>39</sup>

(kulakṣhaye) "Destruction of family values leads to (praṇashyanti) destruction of (sanaatanaaḥ) age old (kuladharmaaḥ) righteous family traditions, and with the (naṣhṭe) destruction of (dharme) righteousness, (adharmaḥ) injustice (abhibhavati) prevails (uta) over (kṛitsnam) the entire (kulam) society."<sup>40</sup>

In verses 38 – 40 Arjuna talks about loss of family values. Here family is all encompassing word referring to the society as a whole. The traditions laid by Arjuna's ancestors were based on the rule of truth and justice. However, in the circumstances leading to this battle, those values have already been compromised and hence the need for this war.

Civilization and values are two separate thoughts. While civilizations always grow with new discoveries, the value systems are more static. The value systems provide

## 38. yadyapyete na pashyanti lobhopahatachetasaḥ, kulakṣhayakṛitan doṣham mitradrohe cha paatakam.

yadyapi iti na pashyanti lobhopahata-chetasaḥ, kulakshaya-kritam dosham mitra-drohe cha paatakam.

## 39 कथं न ज्ञेयमस्माभिः पापादस्मान्निवर्त्तितुम्। कुलक्षयकृतं दोषं प्रपश्यद्धिर्जनार्दन॥३९॥

कथम् । न । ज्ञेयम् । अस्माभिः । पापात् । अस्मात् । निवर्त्तितुम् ॥ कुलक्षयकृतम् । दोषम् । प्रपश्यद्भिः । जनार्दन ॥

## 39. kathan na jñeyamasmaabhiḥ paapaadasmaannivarttitum, kulakṣhayakṛitan doṣham prapashyadbhirjanaardana.

katham na jñeyam asmaabhiḥ paapaat asmaat nivarttitum, kulakṣhaya-kṛitam doṣham prapashyadbhiḥ janaardana.

## 40 कुलक्षये प्रणश्यन्ति कुलधर्माः सनातनाः । धर्मे नष्टे कुलं कृत्स्नमधर्मोऽभिभवत्युत ॥४०॥

कुलक्षये । प्रणश्यन्ति । कुलधर्माः । सनातनाः ॥ धर्मे । नष्टे । कुलम् । कृत्स्नम् । अधर्मः । अभिभवति । उत ॥

40. kulakshaye praṇashyanti kuladharmaaḥ sanaatanaaḥ, dharme naṣḥṭe kulaṅ kṛitsnam-adharmo'bhibhavaty-uta.

kulakşhaye praṇashyanti kuladharmaaḥ sanaatanaaḥ, dharme nashte kulam kritsnam adharmah abhibhavati uta.

differentiation between different societies and hence the means for one's identity. With the loss of this value system, one's identity is lost as well.

(kṛiṣhṇa) "O Kṛiṣhṇa! (adharma-abhibhavaat) When non-righteous behaviour prevails, (praduṣhyanti) it causes the corruption (striyaḥ) in the women (kula) of the society. (vaarṣhṇeya) O Kṛiṣhṇa! (duṣhṭaasu) The corruption of (streeṣhu) women (jaayate) causes (varṇa-saṅkaraḥ) mixing of the varṇas and confusion about duties."<sup>41</sup>

(saṅkaraḥ) "Compromising the varṇa system takes both (kulaghnaanaam) destroyer of the family values (cha) and (kulasya) others in the family (eva) as well (narakaaya) to hell. (eṣhaam) Their (pitaraḥ) elders (hi) definitely (patanti) experience living hell because (lupta) no one follows the tradition of (kriyaaḥ) giving (piṇḍodaka) food and water to the elders."<sup>42</sup>

In verse 42 Arjuna talks about "piṇḍodaka" which simply means caring for and feeding the elders at home. This points to the age old tradition of joint family homes where multiple generations lived together. Due to rise in individualism, westernization and urbanization, this tradition has been compromised in the modern India. Also, during past few centuries a new meaning has become prevalent for "piṇḍodaka" which is, feeding a braahmaṇa in memory of dead ancestors. Somehow the masses were made to believe

## 41 अधर्माभिभवात्कृष्ण प्रदुष्यन्ति कुलस्त्रियः । स्त्रीषु दुष्टासु वार्ष्णेय जायते वर्णसंकरः ॥४१॥

अधर्माभिभवात् । कृष्ण । प्रदुष्यन्ति । कुलस्त्रियः ॥ स्त्रीषु । दुष्टासु । वार्ष्णेय । जायते । वर्णसंकरः ॥

41. adharmaabhibhavaatkṛiṣhṇa praduṣhyanti kulastriyaḥ, streeṣhu duṣhṭaasu vaarṣhṇeya jaayate varṇasaṅkaraḥ.

adharm aabhibhavaat krishna pradushyanti kula-striyah, streeshu dushtaasu vaarshneya jaayate varna-sankarah.

## 42 संकरो नरकायैव कुलघ्नानां कुलस्य च । पतन्ति पितरो ह्येषां लुप्तपिण्डोदकक्रियाः ॥४२॥

संकरः । नरकाय । एव । कुलघ्नानाम् । कुलस्य । च ॥ पतन्ति । पितरः । हि । एषाम् । लुप्तपिण्डोदकक्रियाः ॥

42. saṅkaro narakaayaiva kulaghnaanaaṅ kulasya cha, patanti pitaro hyeshaan luptapindodakakriyaaḥ.

sankarah narakaaya eva kulaghnaanaam kulasya cha, patanti pitarah hi eshaam lupta-pindodaka-kriyaah.

that food provided to the *braahmaṇa*, nourishes the dead ancestors. The premise of this newer practice is nothing but folly. It has been introduced by the greedy in order to emotionally blackmail and rob the masses.

"Due to (etaiḥ) these (doṣhaiḥ) problems (kaarakaiḥ) caused by (varṇa-saṅkara) the compromise of the varṇa system (kula-ghnaanaam) the destroyer of the family values (utsaadyante) lose (shaashvataaḥ) age old (kula-dharmaaḥ) family traditions (cha) and (jaati-dharmaaḥ) traditions associated with their varṇa, as well."<sup>43</sup>

In verses 41-43, Arjuna talks about ills of compromising the *varṇa* system. This *varṇa* system is very different from the caste system currently prevalent. The *varṇa* system described in the Vedas provides for one's disposition and abilities and not birth as the criteria for determining one's *varṇa*. Scriptures call for the marriage of equals and hence within *varṇa*. The idea is based on the premise that individual with similar thoughts and values will be more compatible. Even though love is an important component of marriage, marriage just for love are not recommended. We see that to be true in the modern world where rate is marriage failure is exponentially increasing.

Also, maintaining social norms takes precedence over individuality. When individuality becomes more important than societal norms and women starts to act in a self-fulfilling manner, the society goes in a vicious downward spiral. Here women have been judged better than men to maintain the conscience of a society; and when women refuse or fail to fulfill this role, societal collapse starts. Women's hearts are considered the last forts of the society; and when these forts fall, all value systems are lost.

(janaardana) "O Kṛiṣḥṇa! We have (anushushrum) heard (iti) this. The (manuṣhyaaṇaam) humans who (utsanna) lose (kula-dharmaaṇaam) their family values, (bhavati) get (vaasah) stuck (narake) in the hell (niyatam) forever."

43 दोषैरेतै: कुलघ्नानां वर्णसंकरकारकै: ।

उत्साद्यन्ते जातिधर्माः कुलधर्माश्च शाश्वताः ॥४३॥

दोषैः । एतैः । कुलघ्नानाम् । वर्णसंकरकारकैः ॥ उत्साद्यन्ते । जातिधर्माः । कुलधर्माः । च । शाश्वताः ॥

43. doşhairetaiḥ kulaghnaanaam varṇasaṅkarakaarakaiḥ, utsaadyante jaatidharmaaḥ kuladharmaashcha shaashvataaḥ.

doṣhaiḥ etaiḥ kula-ghnaanaam varṇa-saṅkara-kaarakaiḥ, utsaadyante jaati-dharmaaḥ kula-dharmaaḥ cha shaashvataaḥ.

44 उत्सन्नकुलधर्माणां मनुष्याणां जनार्दन।

(aho bata) "We have become so deplorable (yat) that (lobhena) succumbing to the greed of (sukha) pleasures (raajya) of kingdom, (vayam) we have (vyavasitaaḥ) postioned oursleves (kartum) to undertake this (mahat) significant (paapam) sinful act and (udyataaḥ) are ready (hantum) to kill (svajanam) our own."<sup>45</sup>

(bhavet) "It would be (kṣhemataram) better (tat me) for me (yadi) if (maam) I am (hanyuḥ) killed, (ashastram) unarmed and (aprateekaaram) without protest, (raṇe) in the battle (shastra-paaṇayaḥ) by armed (dhaartaraaṣḥṭraaḥ) sons of Dhṛitaraaṣḥṭra." 46

(Sañjaya) Sañjaya (uvaacha) described.

(saṅkhye) In the battle ground, after (uktvaa) uttering (evam) these words (arjunaḥ) Arjuna, (shoka-samvigna) in a depressed (maanasaḥ) mental state, (visṛijya) dropped his

### नरके नियतं वासो भवतीत्यनुशुश्रुम ॥४४॥

उत्सन्न । कुलधर्माणाम् । मनुष्याणाम् । जनार्दन ॥ नरके । नियतम् । वासः । भवति । इति । अनुशुश्रुम ॥

## 44. utsannakuladharmaanaam manushyaanaan janaardana, narake niyatam vaaso bhavateetyanushushrum.

utsanna-kula-dharmaaṇaam manuṣhyaaṇaam janaardana, narake niyatam vaasaḥ bhavati iti anushushrum.

## 45 अहो बत महत्पापं कर्तुं व्यवसिता वयम्। यद्राज्यसुखलोभेन हन्तुं स्वजनमुद्यताः॥४५॥

अहो । बत । महत् । पापम् । कर्तुम् । व्यवसिताः । वयम् ॥ यत् । राज्यसुखलोभेन । हन्तुम् । स्वजनम् । उद्यताः ॥

## 45. aho bata mahatpaapam kartum vyavasitaa vayam, yadraajyasukhalobhena hantun svajanamudyataaḥ.

aho bata mahat-paapam kartum vyavasitaaḥ vayam, yat raajya-sukha-lobhena hantum svajanam udyataaḥ.

## <sup>46</sup> यदि मामप्रतीकारमशस्त्रं शस्त्रपाणयः ।

धार्तराष्ट्रा रणे हन्युस्तन्मे क्षेमतरं भवेत् ॥४६॥

यदि । माम् । अप्रतीकारम् । अशस्त्रम् । शस्त्रपाणयः ॥ धार्तराष्ट्राः । रणे । हन्युः । तत् । मे । क्षेमतरम् । भवेत् ॥

## 46. yadi maamaprateekaaramashastrañ shastrapaaṇayaḥ, dhaartaraaṣhṭraa raṇe hanyustanme kṣhemataram bhavet.

yadi maam aprateekaaram ashastram shastra-paaṇayaḥ, dhaartaraaṣhṭraaḥ raṇe hanyuḥ tat me kṣhemataram bhavet.

(chaapam) bow (sasharam) along with the arrows and (upaavishat) sat (rathopasthe) in the rear portion of the chariot.<sup>47</sup>

47 सञ्जय उवाच

एवमुक्त्वाऽर्जुनः संख्ये रथोपस्थ उपाविशत्। विसृज्य सशरं चापं शोकसंविग्नमानसः॥४७॥

एवम् । उक्त्वा । अर्जुनः । संख्ये । रथोपस्थे । उपाविशत् ॥ विसृज्य । सशरम् । चापम् । शोकसंविग्न । मानसः ॥

sañjaya uvaacha

47. evamuktvaa'rjunaḥ sankhye rathopastha upaavishat, visrijya sasharañ chaapañ shokasamvignamaanasaḥ.

evam uktvaa arjunaḥ saṅkhye rathopasthe upaavishat, visṛijya sasharam chaapam shoka-samvigna-maanasaḥ.