

CHAPTER - 1
OBSERVING THE ARMIES ON THE BATTLEFIELD OF KURUKSHETRA

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.1

dhṛtarāṣṭra uvāca
dharma-kṣetre kuru-kṣetre
samavetā yuyutsavaḥ
māmakāḥ pāṇḍavās caiva
kim akurvata sañjaya

TRANSLATION

Dhṛtarāṣṭra said: O Sañjaya, after my sons and the sons of Pāṇḍu assembled in the place of pilgrimage at Kurukṣetra, desiring to fight, what did they do?

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.2

sañjaya uvāca
drṣtvā tu pāṇḍavānikāṃ
vyūḍhāṃ duryodhanas tadā
ācāryam upasaṅgamyā
rājā vacanam abravīt

TRANSLATION

Sañjaya said: O King, after looking over the army arranged in military formation by the sons of Pāṇḍu, King Duryodhana went to his teacher and spoke the following words.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.3

paśyaitāṃ pāṇḍu-putrāṇāṃ
ācārya mahatīm camūṃ
vyūḍhāṃ drupada-putreṇa
tava śiṣyeṇa dhīmatā

TRANSLATION

O my teacher, behold the great army of the sons of Pāṇḍu, so expertly arranged by your intelligent disciple the son of Drupada.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.4

atra sūrā maheṣv-āsā
bhīmārjuna-samā yudhi
yuyudhāno virāṭas ca
drupadaś ca mahā-rathāḥ

TRANSLATION

Here in this army are many heroic bowmen equal in fighting to Bhīma and Arjuna: great fighters like Yuyudhāna, Virāṭa and Drupada.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.5

dhṛṣṭaketuś cekitānaḥ
kāśirājas ca vīryavān
puruḥit kuntibhojas ca
śaibyaś ca nara-puṅgavaḥ

TRANSLATION

There are also great, heroic, powerful fighters like Dhṛṣṭaketu, Cekitāna, Kāśirāja, Puruḥit, Kuntibhoja and Śaibya.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.6

yudhāmanyuś ca vikrānta
uttamaujās ca vīryavān
saubhadro draupadeyās ca
sarva eva mahā-rathāḥ

TRANSLATION

There are the mighty Yudhāmanyu, the very powerful Uttamaujā, the son of Subhadrā and the sons of Draupadī. All these warriors are great chariot fighters.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.7

asmākaṁ tu viśiṣṭā ye
tān nibodha dvijottama
nāyakā mama sainya
samjñārthaṁ tān bravīmi te

TRANSLATION

But for your information, O best of the brāhmaṇas, let me tell you about the captains who are especially qualified to lead my military force.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.8

bhavān bhīṣmaś ca karṇaś ca
kṛpaś ca samitiṁ-jayaḥ
aśvatthāmā vikaṇaś ca
saumadattis tathaiva ca

TRANSLATION

There are personalities like you, **Bhīṣma, Karṇa, Kṛpa, Aśvatthāmā, Vikarṇa** and of Somadatta called Bhūrīśravā, who are always victorious in battle.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.9

anye ca bahavaḥ śūrā
mad-arthe tyakta-jīvitāḥ
nānā-śastra-praharaṇāḥ
sarve yuddha-viśāradāḥ

TRANSLATION

There are many other heroes who are prepared to lay down their lives for my sake. All of them are well equipped with different kinds of weapons, and all are experienced in military science.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.10

aparyāptaṁ tad asmākaṁ
balaṁ bhīṣmābhirakṣitam
paryāptaṁ tv idam eteṣāṁ
balaṁ bhīmābhirakṣitam

TRANSLATION

Our strength is immeasurable, and we are perfectly protected by Grandfather Bhīṣma, whereas the strength of the Pāṇḍavas, carefully protected by Bhīma, is limited.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.11

ayaneṣu ca sarveṣu
yathā-bhāgam avasthitāḥ
bhīṣmam evābhirakṣantu
bhavantaḥ sarva eva hi

TRANSLATION

All of you must now give full support to Grandfather Bhīṣma, as you stand at your respective strategic points of entrance into the phalanx of the army.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.12

tasya sañjanayan haṛṣam
kuru-vṛddhaḥ pitāmahaḥ
simha-nādam vinadyoccaiḥ
śaṅkham dadhmau pratāpavān

TRANSLATION

Then Bhīṣma, the great valiant grandsire of the Kuru dynasty, the grandfather of the fighters, blew his conchshell very loudly, making a sound like the roar of a lion, giving Duryodhana joy.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.13

tataḥ śaṅkhās ca bheryās ca
paṇavānaka-gomukhāḥ
sahasaivābhyahanyanta
sa śabdāḥ tumulo 'bhavat

TRANSLATION

After that, the conchshells, drums, bugles, trumpets and horns were all suddenly sounded, and the combined sound was tumultuous.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.14

tataḥ śvetair hayair yukte
mahati syandane sthitau
mādhavaḥ pāṇḍavaś caiva
divyau śaṅkhau pradadhmatuḥ

TRANSLATION

On the other side, both Lord Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna, stationed on a great chariot drawn by white horses, sounded their transcendental conchshells.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.15

pāñcājanyaṁ hr̥ṣīkeśo
devadattaṁ dhanañjayaḥ
pauṇḍraṁ dadhmau mahā-śaṅkhaṁ
bhīma-karmā vṛkodaraḥ

TRANSLATION

Lord Kṛṣṇa blew His conchshell, called Pāñcājanya; Arjuna blew his, the Devadatta; and Bhīma, the voracious eater and performer of herculean tasks, blew his terrific conchshell, called Pauṇḍra.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.16

anantavijayaṁ rājā
kuntī-putro yudhiṣṭhiraḥ
nakulaḥ sahadevaś ca
sughoṣa-maṇipuṣpakau

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.17

kāśyaś ca parameśv-āsaḥ
śikhaṇḍī ca mahā-rathaḥ
dhr̥ṣṭadyumno virāṭaś ca
sātyakiś cāparājitaḥ

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.18

drupado draupadeyāś ca
sarvaśaḥ pṛthivī-pate
saubhadraś ca mahā-bāhuḥ
śaṅkhān dadhmau pṛthak pṛthak

TRANSLATION

King Yudhiṣṭhira, the son of Kuntī, blew his conchshell, the Ananta-vijaya, and Nakula and Sahadeva blew the Sughoṣa and Maṇipuṣpaka. That great archer the King of Kāśī, the great fighter Śikhaṇḍī, Dhṛṣṭadyumna, Virāṭa, the unconquerable Sātyaki, Drupada, the sons of Draupadī, and the others, O King, such as the mighty-armed son of Subhadrā, all blew their respective conchshells.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.19

sa ghoṣo dhārtarāṣṭrāṇām
hṛdayāni vyadārayat
nabhaś ca pṛthivīm caiva
tumulo 'bhyanunādayan

TRANSLATION

The blowing of these different conchshells became uproarious. Vibrating both in the sky and on the earth, it shattered the hearts of the sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.20

atha vyavasthitān dṛṣṭvā
dhārtarāṣṭrān kapi-dhvajaḥ
pravṛtte śastra-sampāte
dhanur udyamya pāṇḍavaḥ
hṛṣikeśam tadā vākyam
idam āha mahī-pate

TRANSLATION

At that time Arjuna, the son of Pāṇḍu, seated in the chariot bearing the flag marked with Hanumān, took up his bow and prepared to shoot his arrows. O King, after looking at the sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra drawn in military array, Arjuna then spoke to Lord Kṛṣṇa these words.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.21-22

arjuna uvāca
senayor ubhayor madhye
ratham sthāpaya me 'cyuta
yāvad etān nirīkṣe 'ham
yoddhu-kāmān avasthitān
kair mayā saha yoddhavyam
asmin raṇa-samudyame

TRANSLATION

Arjuna said: O infallible one, please draw my chariot between the two armies so that I may see those present here, who desire to fight, and with whom I must contend in this great trial of arms.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.23

yotsyamānān avekṣe 'ham
ya ete 'tra samāgatāḥ
dhārtarāṣṭrasya durbuddher
yuddhe priya-cikīrṣavaḥ

TRANSLATION

Let me see those who have come here to fight, wishing to please the evil-minded son of Dhṛtarāṣṭra.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.24

sañjaya uvāca
evam ukto hr̥ṣīkeśo
guḍākeśena bhārata
senayor ubhayor madhye
sthāpayitvā rathottamam

TRANSLATION

Sañjaya said: O descendant of Bharata, having thus been addressed by Arjuna, Lord Kṛṣṇa drew up the fine chariot in the midst of the armies of both parties.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.25

bhīṣma-droṇa-pramukhataḥ
sarveṣāṃ ca mahī-kṣitām
uvāca pārtha paśyaitān
samavetān kurūn iti

TRANSLATION

In the presence of Bhīṣma, Droṇa and all the other chieftains of the world, the Lord said, Just behold, Pārtha, all the Kurus assembled here.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.26

tatrāpaśyat sthitān pārthaḥ
pitṛn atha pitāmahān
ācāryān mātulān bhrātṛn
putrān pautrān sakhīns tathā
śvaśurān suhṛdaś caiva senayor ubhayor api

TRANSLATION

There Arjuna could see, within the midst of the armies of both parties, his fathers, grandfathers, teachers, maternal uncles, brothers, sons, grandsons, friends, and also his fathers-in-law and well-wishers.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.27

tān samīkṣya sa kaunteyaḥ
sarvān bandhūn avasthitān
kṛpayā parayāviṣṭo
viṣīdann idam abravīt

TRANSLATION

When the son of Kuntī, Arjuna, saw all these different grades of friends and relatives, he became overwhelmed with compassion and spoke thus.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.28

arjuna uvāca
dṛṣṭvemaṁ sva-janaṁ kṛṣṇa
yuyutsum samupasthitam
sīdanti mama gātrāṇi
mukhaṁ ca pariśuṣyati

TRANSLATION

Arjuna said: My dear Kṛṣṇa, seeing my friends and relatives present before me in such a fighting spirit, I feel the limbs of my body quivering and my mouth drying up.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.29

vepathuś ca śarīre me
roma-harṣaś ca jāyate
gāṇḍīvaṁ sramsate hastāt
tvak caiva paridahyate

TRANSLATION

My whole body is trembling, my hair is standing on end, my bow Gāṇḍīva is slipping from my hand, and my skin is burning.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.30

na ca śaknoṃy avasthātum
bhramatīva ca me manaḥ
nimittāni ca paśyāmi
viparītāni keśava

TRANSLATION

I am now unable to stand here any longer. I am forgetting myself, and my mind is reeling. I see only causes of misfortune, O Kṛṣṇa, killer of the Keśī demon.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.31

na ca śreyo 'nupaśyāmi
hatvā sva-janam āhave
na kāṅkṣe vijayaṁ kṛṣṇa
na ca rājyaṁ sukhāni ca

TRANSLATION

I do not see how any good can come from killing my own kinsmen in this battle, nor can I, my dear Kṛṣṇa, desire any subsequent victory, kingdom, or happiness.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.32

kiṁ no rājyena govinda
kiṁ bhogair jīvitena vā
yeṣāṁ arthe kāṅkṣitaṁ no
rājyaṁ bhogaḥ sukhāni ca

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.33

ta ime 'vasthitā yuddhe
prāṇāṁ tyaktvā dhanāni ca
ācāryāḥ pitarāḥ putrās
tathaiva ca pitāmahāḥ

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.34

mātulāḥ śvaśurāḥ pautrāḥ
śyālāḥ sambandhināḥ tathā
etān na hantum icchāmi
ghnato 'pi madhusūdana

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.35

api trailokya-rājyasya
hetoḥ kiṁ nu mahī-kṛte
nihatya dhārtarāṣṭrān naḥ
kā prītiḥ syāj janārdana

TRANSLATION

O Govinda, of what avail to us are a kingdom, happiness or even life itself when all those for whom we may desire them are now arrayed on this battlefield? O Madhusūdana, when teachers, fathers, sons, grandfathers, maternal uncles, fathers-in-law, grandsons, brothers-in-law and other relatives are ready to give up their lives and properties and are standing before me, why should I wish to kill them, even though they might otherwise kill me? O maintainer of all living entities, I am not prepared to fight with them even in exchange for the three worlds, let alone this earth. What pleasure will we derive from killing the sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra?

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.36

pāpam evāśrayed asmān
hatvaitān ātatāyinaḥ
tas mān nār hā vya m hantum
dhārtarāṣṭrān sa-bāndhavān
sva-jana m hi katha m hatvā
sukhina ḥ syāma mādhava

TRANSLATION

Sin will overcome us if we slay such aggressors. Therefore it is not proper for us to kill the sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra and our friends. What should we gain, O Kṛṣṇa, husband of the goddess of fortune, and how could we be happy by killing our own kinsmen?

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.37

yady apy ete na paśyanti
lobhopahata-cetasah
kula-kṣaya-kṛta m doṣa m
mitra-drohe ca pātakam

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.38

katha m na jñeyam asmābhiḥ
pāpād asmān nivartitum
kula-kṣaya-kṛta m doṣa m
prapaśyadbhir janārdana

TRANSLATION

O Janārdana, although these men, their hearts overtaken by greed, see no fault in killing one's family or quarreling with friends, why should we, who can see the crime in destroying a family, engage in these acts of sin?

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.39

kula-kṣaye praṇāśyanti
kula-dharmāḥ sanātanāḥ
dharme naṣṭe kulam kṛtsnam
adharmo 'bhibhavaty uta

TRANSLATION

With the destruction of dynasty, the eternal family tradition is vanquished, and thus the rest of the family becomes involved in irreligion.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.40

adharmābhibhavāt kṛṣṇa
praduśyanti kula-striyaḥ
strīṣu duṣṭāsu vārṣṇeya
jāyate varṇa-saṅkaraḥ

TRANSLATION

When irreligion is prominent in the family, O Kṛṣṇa, the women of the family become polluted, and from the degradation of womanhood, O descendant of Vṛṣṇi, comes unwanted progeny.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.41

saṅkaro narakāyaiva
kula-ghnānām kulasya ca
patanti pitaro hy eṣām
lupta-piṇḍodaka-kriyāḥ

TRANSLATION

An increase of unwanted population certainly causes hellish life both for the family and for those who destroy the family tradition. The ancestors of such

corrupt families fall down, because the performances for offering them food and water are entirely stopped.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.42

doṣair etaiḥ kula-ghnānām
varṇa-saṅkara-kāraikaiḥ
utsādyante jāti-dharmāḥ
kula-dharmās ca śāśvatāḥ

TRANSLATION

By the evil deeds of those who destroy the family tradition and thus give rise to unwanted children, all kinds of community projects and family welfare activities are devastated.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.43

utsanna-kula-dharmāṇām
manuṣyāṇām janārdana
narake niyataṁ vāso
bhavatīty anuśūruma

TRANSLATION

O Kṛṣṇa, maintainer of the people, I have heard by disciplic succession that those who destroy family traditions dwell always in hell.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.44

aho bata mahat pāpaṁ
kartuṁ vyavasitā vayam
yad rājya-sukha-lobhena
hantuṁ sva-janam udyatāḥ

TRANSLATION

Alas, how strange it is that we are preparing to commit greatly sinful acts. Driven by the desire to enjoy royal happiness, we are intent on killing our own kinsmen.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.45

yadi mām apratikāram
aśastraṁ śastra-pāṇayaḥ
dhārtarāṣṭrā raṇe hanyus
tan me kṣemataram bhavet

TRANSLATION

Better for me if the sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra, weapons in hand, were to kill me unarmed and unresisting on the battlefield.

BHAGAVAD - GITA 1.46

sañjaya uvāca
evam uktvārjunaḥ sañkhye
rathopastha upāviśat
viśṛjya sa-śaram cāpam
śoka-saṁvigna-mānasaḥ

TRANSLATION

Sañjaya said: Arjuna, having thus spoken on the battlefield, cast aside his bow and arrows and sat down on the chariot, his mind overwhelmed with grief.