



GI:THA: JYO:THI

A garland of 48 Sloka:s selected from Bhagavadgi:tha

**PATRONAGE OF A DESPERADO IS
ALWAYS A SOURCE OF AGONY.**

Dhruthara:shtra Uva:cha

1. dharma kshe:thre: kuru kshe:thre:
samave:tha: yuyuthsavaha
ma:maka:h pa:ndava:s chaiva
kim akurvatha Sanjaya !

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Dhruthrastra said O Sanjaya ! what did my people and the Pa:ndavas who were eager to fight, do, after assembling in Kurukshethra, which stimulates the qualities of the people who go there and is the abode of righteousness.

Immediately after listening to the fall of grand sire Bhi:shma:charya on the eleventh day of the great war of Maha:Bha:ratha, the blind King Dhruthra:shtra posed the above mentioned question to Sanjaya. Sanjaya was his childhood friend and charioteer. Grand sire Bhishma was the commander-in-chief of the vast army of Kauravas. Kauravas army comprised of eleven akshaunis and many mighty invincible warriors like Dro:na. All of them were prepared to sacrifice their lives for the sake of Duryo:dhana's victory. Grand sire Bhishma was the grand father of the Pa:ndava:s, a mighty

warrior who could die only by his will, a great devotee who could even challenge Lord Krishna, a theist who was revered even by the demigods and was well versed in Vedas.

Only due to the presence of grand sire Bhishma on their side King Dhrutharashtra was confident of his son's victory. King Dhrutharastra did not listen to the good counsels of many of his well wishers. He desired to fight even after seeing the universal form of Lord Krishna. The Pa:ndava:s had a very small army, which comprised of only seven akshauhinis and were

without any mighty warriors on their side. Hence he thought that his sons would retain the kingdom by defeating the Pa:ndavas. He thought that the goodness of Pa:ndava:s would be stimulated due to the influence of Kurukshethra and Pa:ndava:s would abstain from fighting. Hence he expected his sons to retain the kingdom, without even fighting with the Pa:ndava:s. Even as he was dreaming so, he got the news of Bhi:shma's fall and he could not withstand that shocking news.

Immediately after listening to that heart breaking news Dhruthara:shtra started to lament in the following manner, what were my children doing when Bhi:shma fell? Could they not save him from all directions? How could the Pa:ndava:s who worship the elderly people aim at the destruction of their own grandfather? I don't think they can commit such a heinous act in that place of righteousness! How could they get such strength and inspiration? How did they bring about the downfall of Bhi:shma who

could die only at his own will? What did they do? Who motivated them? Are we going to be defeated inspite of having such a vast army and mighty warriors like Dro:na and others on our side?

Though King Dhruthara:shtra was blind from birth, if he was righteous, he would have restrained his son Duryo:dhana from his evil ways. He would have advised his son against opposing Lord Krishna. He would have restrained his son from offending the Pa:ndava:s, who were his well-wishers. He would have given the Pa:ndavas their share in the kingdom, but, he did not do any of these. Being blinded by excessive attachment towards his son he supported all the malicious acts of his evil-minded son Duryo:dhana. He became stonehearted because of his desire of passing the kingship to his own progeny. Due to his desire for extending his own dynastic rule and due to his patronage for the oppressions of his evil-minded son, not even a single son of his could survive.

The Pa:ndavas were dutiful and righteous. They faced many hurdles in the beginning but in the end they were victorious. Their lineage continued and their fame was established in all directions. There are many covetous and self-centered people like Dhruthara:shtra in the society and there will be no end to their mischief. Bhagavad-Gi:tha is the only panecea for the reformation of such people.

Sanjaya attained divine vision due to the mercy of the great Sage Ve:da Vya:sa. He narrated all the incidents and dialogues which took place in the Great War as they were to Dhruthara:shtra. In the end he said “**Mama dhruva: mathihi**” i.e. it is my firm conviction that the Pa:ndava:s will attain the victory, opulence and the kingdom.

Though the Kaurava:s and Pa:ndava:s were Dhruthara:shtra’s children he showed his affinity towards Kaurava:s by saying “**Ma:maka:ha.**” Not a single

warrior in the army of eleven akshauhinis survived. All of them perished! By saying “**Pa:ndava:ha**” he considered Pa:ndava:s as outsiders. In spite of having a very small army with no great warriors in it even a single Pa:ndava was not killed. Their lineage was saved.

Don’t associate with crooked people like Dhruthra:shtra. Such association will lead to self-destruction. It is good even if such people alienate us. We can at least survive in blood and flesh. On the other hand a great person like Lord Krishna considered Pa:ndava:s as his own people and they were victorious in the end. Kauravas were envious of the Lord and were destroyed. We should always be away from the evil-minded people. Patronage of good people is always like **Sri: Ra:ma Raksha** (protection of Lord Rama). As a part of **Gi:tha: Jyo:thi** let us practice this moral and be successful.

