

धृतराष्ट्र उवाच

Dhritarashtra said,
dhṛtarāṣṭra uvāca

धर्मक्षेत्रे कुरुक्षेत्रे

On the Kuru battlefield, the field of dharma,
dharma-kṣetre kuru-kṣetre

समवेता युयुत्सवः

warriors have gathered,
samavetā yuyutsavaḥ

मामकाः पाण्डवाश्चैव

both mine and the Pandavas.
māmakāḥ pāṇḍavāś caiva

किमकुर्वत सञ्जय

What did they do, O Sanjaya?
kim akurvata sañjaya 1.1

सञ्जय उवाच

Sanjaya said,
sañjaya uvāca

दृष्ट्वा तु पाण्डवानीकं

Seeing Pandava army
dṛṣṭvā tu pāṇḍavānīkaṁ

व्यूढं दुर्योधनस् तदा

arrayed for battle,
vyūḍhaṁ duryodhanas tadā

आचार्यम् उपसङ्गम्य

Duryodhana approached his teacher,
ācāryam upasaṅgamyā

राजा वचनमब्रवीत्

Drona, and said:
rājā vacanam abravīt 1.2

पश्यैतां पाण्डुपुत्राणां
"Look at the Pandava's
paśyaitāṃ pāṇḍu-putrāṇāṃ

आचार्य महतीं चमूम्
vast army, O Drona,
ācārya mahatīm camūm

व्यूढां द्रुपदपुत्रेण
organized by Drupada's son,
vyūḍhām drupada-putreṇa

तव शिष्येण धीमता
your own disciple."
tava śiṣyena dhīmatā 1.3

अत्र शूरा महेष्वासा
"There are mighty archers
atra śūrā maheṣvāsā

भीमार्जुनसमा युधि
equal to Bhima or Arjuna in war.
bhīmārjuna-samā yudhi

युयुधानो विराटश् च
Yuyudhana, Virata,
yuyudhāno virāṭaś ca

द्रुपदश्च महारथः
and the great leader, Drupada."
drupadaś ca mahārathaḥ 1.4

धृष्टकेतुश्चेकितानः
"Dhrishtaketu, Chekitana,
dhr̥ṣṭaketuś cekitānaḥ

काशिराजश्च वीर्यवान्
the mighty king of Kashi,
kāśirājaś ca vīryavān

पुरुजित् कुन्तिभोजश्च
Purujit, Kuntibhoja,
purujit kuntibhojaś ca

शैब्यश्च नरपुङ्गवः
and Shaibya, the best of men."
śaibyaś ca nara-puṅgavaḥ 1.5

युधामन्युश्च विक्रान्त
"The victorious Yudhamanyu,
yudhāmanyuś ca vikrānta

उत्तमौजाश्च वीर्यवान्
the valiant Uttamaujas,
uttamaujāś ca vīryavān

सौभद्रो द्रौपदेयाश्च
the sons of Subhadra and Draupadi,
saubhadro draupadeyāś ca

सर्व एव महारथाः
all of them great leaders."
sarva eva mahārathāḥ 1.6

अस्माकं तु विशिष्टा ये
"Our own great warriors,
asmākaṁ tu viśiṣṭā ye

तान्निबोध द्विजोत्तम
hear about them, O Drona.
tān nibodha dvijottama

नायका मम सैन्यस्य
The leaders of my army
nāyakā mama sainyasya

संज्ञार्थं तान् ब्रवीमि ते
I will introduce to you."
saṁjñārtham tān bravīmi te 1.7

अन्ये च बहवः शूरा
"Many other warriors here
anye ca bahavaḥ śūrā

मदर्थे त्यक्तजीविताः
are ready to give their lives for me.
mad-arthe tyakta-jīvitāḥ

नानाशस्त्रप्रहरणाः
Armed with various weapons,
nānā-śastra-praharaṇāḥ

सर्वे युद्धविशारदाः
all of them are skilled warriors."
sarve yuddha-viśāradāḥ 1.9

भवान् भीष्मश्च कर्णश्च
"Yourself, Bhishma, Karna,
bhavān bhīṣmaś ca karṇaś ca

कृपश्च समितिंजयः
and Kripa, victorious in war,
kṛpaś ca samitiṁ-jayaḥ

अश्वत्थामा विकर्णश्च
Ashvatthama, Vikarna,
aśvatthāmā vikarṇaś ca

सौमदत्तिस्तथैव च
and Saumadatti."
saumadattis tathaiva ca 1.8

अपर्याप्तं तद् अस्माकं
"Unlimited is our army's
aparyāptaṁ tad asmākaṁ

बलं भीष्माभिरक्षितम्
strength, protected by Bhishma.
balaṁ bhīṣmābhirakṣitam

पर्याप्तं त्विदम् एतेषां
Limited is their army's
paryāptaṁ tvidam eteṣāṁ

बलं भीमाभिरक्षितम्
strength, protected by Bhima."
balaṁ bhīmābhirakṣitam 1.10

अयनेषु च सर्वेषु

"On all sides,
ayaneṣu ca sarveṣu

यथाभागमवस्थिताः

arrayed in your divisions,
yathā-bhāgam avasthitāḥ

भीष्ममेवाभिरक्षन्तु

be sure to protect Bhishma,
bhīṣmam evābhirakṣantu

भवन्तः सर्व एव हि

each and every one of you."
bhavantaḥ sarva eva hi 1.11

तस्य सञ्जनयन् हर्षं

To Duryodhana's delight,
tasya sañjanayan harṣam

कुरुवृद्धः पितामहः

Bhishma, the eldest Kuru,
kuru-vṛddhaḥ pitāmahaḥ

सिंहनादं विनद्योच्चैः

bellowed with a roar,
simha-nādam vinadyoccaiḥ

शङ्खं दध्मौ प्रतापवान्

blowing on his conch.
śaṅkham dadhmau pratāpavān 1.12

ततः शङ्खाश्च भेर्यश्च

Then conches, kettledrums,
tataḥ śaṅkhāś ca bheryaś ca

पणवानकगोमुखाः

cymbals, drums and horns
paṇavānaka-gomukhāḥ

सहसैवाभ्यहन्यन्त

blared forth suddenly.
sahasaivābhyahanyanta

स शब्दस्तुमुलोऽभवत्

That sound was tumultuous.
sa śabdastumulo 'bhavat 1.13

ततः श्वेतैर्हयैर्युक्ते

Then, yoked with white horses,
tataḥ śvetair hayair yukte

महति स्यन्दने स्थितौ

in a great chariot,
mahati syandane sthitau

माधवः पाण्डवश्चैव

stood Krishna and Arjuna.
mādhavaḥ pāṇḍavaś caiva

दिव्यौ शङ्खौ प्रदध्मतुः

They blew their divine conches.
divyau śaṅkhau pradadhmatuḥ 1.14

पाञ्चजन्यं हृषीकेशो
Krishna blew on Panchajaya.
pāñcajanyaṁ hr̥ṣīkeśo

देवदत्तं धनञ्जयः
Arjuna blew on Devadatta.
devadattaṁ dhanañjayaḥ

पौण्ड्रं दध्मौ महाशङ्खं
On the great conch, Paundra, blew
pauṇḍraṁ dadhmau mahā-śaṅkhaṁ

भीमकर्मा वृकोदरः
Bhima, fierce as a wolf.
bhīma-karmā vṛkodaraḥ 1.15

काश्यश्च परमेष्वासः
The mighty archer, king of Kashi,
kāśyaś ca parameṣvāsaḥ

शिखण्डी च महारथः
the great leader, Shikhandi,
śikhaṇḍī ca mahārathaḥ

धृष्टद्युम्नो विराटश्च
Dhrishtadyumna, Virata,
dhṛṣṭadyumno virāṭaś ca

सात्यकिश्चापराजितः
and the invincible Satyaki,
sātyakiś cāparājitaḥ 1.17

अनन्तविजयं राजा
On Anantavijaya blew King
ananta-vijayam rājā

कुन्तीपुत्रो युधिष्ठिरः
Yudhishtira, the son of Kunti.
kuntī-putro yudhiṣṭhiraḥ

नकुलः सहदेवश्च
Nakula and Sahadeva blew
nakulaḥ sahadevaś ca

सुघोषमणिपुष्पकौ
on Sughoshā and Manipushpaka.
sughoṣa-maṇipuṣpakau 1.16

द्रुपदो द्रौपदेयाश्च
Drupada, Draupadi's sons,
drupado draupadeyāś ca

सर्वशः पृथिवीपते
all of them, O King,
sarvaśaḥ pṛthivī-pate

सौभद्रश्च महाबाहुः
with Subhadra's mighty son,
saubhadraś ca mahā-bāhuḥ

शङ्खान् दध्मुः पृथक्पृथक्
blew their many conches.
śaṅkhān dadhmuḥ pṛthak pṛthak 1.18

स घोषो धार्तराष्ट्राणां
For Dhritarashtra's sons, that uproar
sa ghoṣo dhārtarāṣṭrāṇām

हृदयानि व्यदारयत्
shattered their hearts.
hr̥dayāni vyadārayat

नभश् च पृथिवीं चैव
The sky and earth
nabhaś ca pṛthivīm caiva

तुमुलोऽभ्यनुनादयन्
resounded with tumultuous noise.
tumulo 'bhyanunādayan 1.19

हृषीकेशं तदा वाक्यं
Then to Krishna, these words
hr̥ṣīkeśam tadā vākyaṁ

इदमाह महीपते
Arjuna spoke, O King.
idam āha mahī-pate 1.21a

अथ व्यवस्थितान् दृष्ट्वा
Then, seeing the assembled
atha vyavasthitān dṛṣṭvā

धार्तराष्ट्रान् कपिध्वजः
sons of Dhritarashtra,
dhārtarāṣṭrān kapi-dhvajaḥ

प्रवृत्ते शस्त्रसम्पाते
as weapons were readied,
pravṛtte śastra-sampāte

धनुरुद्यम्य पाण्डवः
Arjuna raised up his bow.
dhanur udyamya pāṇḍavaḥ 1.20

अर्जुन उवाच
Arjuna said,
arjuna uvāca

सेनयोरुभयोर्मध्ये
In between both armies,
senayor ubhayor madhye

रथं स्थापय मेऽच्युत
place my chariot, O Krishna.
ratham sthāpaya me 'cyuta 1.21b

यावदेतान्निरीक्षेऽहं

I want to see those
yāvad etān nirikṣe 'ham

योद्धुकामानवस्थितान्

gathered for war
yoddhu-kāmān avasthitān

कैर्मया सह योद्धव्यं

with whom I must fight
kair mayā saha yoddhavyam

अस्मिन् रणसमुद्यमे

in this battle.
asmin raṇa-samudyame 1.22

योत्स्यमानानवेक्षेऽहं

I want to see the warriors
yotsyamānān avekṣe 'ham

य एतेऽत्र समागताः

who are gathered here,
ya ete 'tra samāgatāḥ

धार्तराष्ट्रस्य दुर्बुद्धेर्

weak-minded Dhritarashtra's sons,
dhārtarāṣṭrasya durbuddher

युद्धे प्रियचिकीर्षवः

eager to please him in battle.
yuddhe priya-cikīrṣavaḥ 1.23

सञ्जय उवाच

Sanjaya said,
sañjaya uvāca

एवमुक्तो हृषीकेशो

Krishna, after being spoken to
evamukto hr̥ṣīkeśo

गुडाकेशेन भारत

by Arjuna, O King,
guḍākeśena bhārata

सेनयोरुभयोर्मध्ये

in between both armies
senayor ubhayor madhye

स्थापयित्वा रथोत्तमम्

he placed their great chariot.
sthāpayitvā rathottamam 1.24

भीष्मद्रोणप्रमुखतः

In front of Bhishma, Drona
bhīṣma-droṇa-pramukhataḥ

सर्वेषां च महीक्षिताम्

and all the kings,
sarveṣāṃ ca mahī-kṣitām

उवाच पार्थ पश्यैतान्

Krishna said, "Arjuna, see these
uvāca pārtha paśyaitān

समवेतान् कुरूनिति

Kauravas gathered here."
samavetān kurūn iti 1.25

श्वशुरान् सुहृदश्चैव

...fathers-in-law and well-wishers,
śvaśurān suhṛdaś caiva

सेनयोरुभयोरपि

in armies on both sides.
senayor ubhayor api

तान्समीक्ष्य स कौन्तेयः

Arjuna saw them,
tān samīkṣya sa kaunteyaḥ

सर्वान्बन्धूनवस्थितान्

all his relatives gathered there.
sarvān bandhūn avasthitān 1.27

तत्रापश्यत् स्थितान् पार्थः

Arjuna saw standing there
tatrāpaśyat sthitān pārthaḥ

पितृनथ पितामहान्

fathers, grandfathers,
pitṛnatha pitāmahān

आचार्यान्मातुलान् भ्रातृन्

teachers, uncles, brothers,
ācāryān mātulān bhrātṛn

पुत्रान्पौत्रान् सखींस्तथा

sons, grandsons, friends...
putrān pautrān sakhīms tathā 1.26

कृपया परयाविष्टो

Filled with great compassion
kṛpayā parayāviṣṭo

विषीदन्निदमब्रवीत्

and feeling sad, Arjuna said,
viṣīdann idam abravīt 1.28a

अर्जुन उवाच

Arjuna said,
arjuna uvāca

दृष्ट्वेमं स्वजनं कृष्ण

O Krishna, I see my relatives
dṛṣṭvemaṁ svajanam kṛṣṇa

युयुत्सुं समुपस्थितम्

gathered here, ready to fight.

yuyutsum samupasthitam 1.28b

सीदन्ति मम गात्राणि

My limbs grow weak,
sīdanti mama gātrāṇi

मुखं च परिशुष्यति

my mouth is parched,
mukham ca pariśuṣyati

वेपथुश्च शरीरे मे

my body trembles,

vepathuś ca śarīre me

रोमहर्षश्च जायते

and my hair stands on end.

roma-harṣaś ca jāyate 1.29

गाण्डीवं स्रंसते हस्तात्

My bow slips from my hand,
gāṇḍīvaṁ sraṁsate hastāt

त्वक् चैव परिदह्यते

and my skin burns.

tvak caiva paridahyate

न च शनोम्यवस्थातुं

I am not able to stand up

na ca śaknomy avasthātum

भ्रमतीव च मे मनः

and my mind is spinning.

bhramatīva ca me manaḥ 1.30

निमित्तानि च पश्यामि

I see omens

nimittāni ca paśyāmi

विपरीतानि केशव

of disaster, O Krishna.

viparītāni keśava

न च श्रेयोऽनुपश्यामि

I foresee no good

na ca śreyo 'nupaśyāmi

हत्वा स्वजनमाहवे

from killing my relatives in war.

hatvā svajanam āhave 1.31

न काङ्क्षे विजयं कृष्ण

O Krishna, I don't want victory,
na kāṅkṣe vijayaṁ kṛṣṇa

न च राज्यं सुखानि च

kingship, or pleasures.
na ca rājyaṁ sukhāni ca

किं नो राज्येन गोविन्द

O Krishna, what's the use of kingship,
kiṁ no rājyena govinda

किं भोगैर्जीवितेन वा

enjoyments or even living?
kiṁ bhogair jīvitena vā 1.32

आचार्याः पितरः पुत्रास्

Teachers, fathers, sons,
ācāryāḥ pitarāḥ putrās

तथैव च पितामहाः

and grandfathers,
tathaiva ca pitāmahāḥ

मातुलाः श्वशुराः पौत्राः

uncles, fathers-in-law, grandsons,
mātulāḥ śvaśurāḥ pautrāḥ

श्यालाः सम्बन्धिनस्तथा

brothers-in-law, and other relatives.
śyālāḥ sambandhinas tathā 1.34

येषामर्थे काङ्क्षितं नो

Those for whose sakes we seek
yeṣāṁ arthe kāṅkṣitaṁ no

राज्यं भोगाः सुखानि च

kingship, enjoyments and pleasures,
rājyaṁ bhogāḥ sukhāni ca

त इमेऽवस्थिता युद्धे

they are gathered on the battlefield
ta ime 'vasthitā yuddhe

प्राणांस्त्यक्त्वा धनानि च

giving up their lives and wealth.
prāṇāṁs tyaktvā dhanāni ca 1.33

एतान् न हन्तुमिच्छामि

I don't want to kill them
etān na hantum icchāmi

घ्नतोऽपि मधुसूदन

even if I am killed, O Krishna,
ghnato 'pi madhusūdana

अपि त्रैलोक्यराज्यस्य

not for ruling all three worlds,
api trailokya-rājyasya

हेतोः किं नु महीकृते

much less for the sake of the earth.
hetoḥ kiṁ nu mahī-kṛte 1.35

निहत्य धार्तराष्ट्रान्नः

From killing Dhritarashtra's sons,
nihatya dhārtarāṣṭrān naḥ

का प्रीतिः स्याज्जनार्दन

what pleasure would we get, O Krishna?
kā prītiḥ syāj janārdana

पापमेवाश्रयेदस्मान्

Only sin would befall us
pāpam evāśrayed asmān

हत्वैतानाततायिनः

from killing these villains.
hatvaitān ātatāyinaḥ 1.36

यद्यप्येते न पश्यन्ति

They don't understand,
yady apy ete na paśyanti

लोभोपहतचेतसः

with minds overcome by greed,
lobhopahata-cetasah

कुलक्षयकृतं दोषं

the sin of destroying one's family
kula-kṣaya-kṛtaṁ doṣaṁ

मित्रद्रोहे च पातकम्

and treachery against friends.
mitra-drohe ca pātakam 1.38

तस्मान्नार्हा वयं हन्तुं

Therefore, we should not kill
tasmān nārhā vyaṁ hantum

धार्तराष्ट्रान् सबान्धवान्

Dhritarashtra's sons, our relatives,
dhārtarāṣṭrān sabāndhavān

स्वजनं हि कथं हत्वा

because after killing them, how
svajanaṁ hi katham hatvā

सुखिनः स्याम माधव

could we be happy, O Krishna?
sukhinaḥ syāma mādhave 1.37

कथं न ज्ञेयमस्माभिः

How could we not be wise enough
katham na jñeyam asmābhiḥ

पापादस्मान्निवर्तितुम्

to refrain from this sin -
pāpād asmān nivartitum

कुलक्षयकृतं दोषं

the sin of destroying one's family,
kula-kṣaya-kṛtaṁ doṣaṁ

प्रपश्यद्भिर्जनार्दन

by us, who know better, O Krishna?
prapaśyadbhir janārdana 1.39

कुलक्षये प्रणश्यन्ति

Destroying one's family will destroy
kula-kṣaye praṇaśyanti

कुलधर्माः सनातनाः

the family's ancient laws.
kula-dharmāḥ sanātanaḥ

धर्मे नष्टे कुलं कृत्स्नं

When those laws are lost, the whole family
dharme naṣṭe kulam kṛtsnam

अधर्मोऽभिभवत्युत

will be overcome by adharma.
adharmo 'bhibhavaty uta 1.40

अधर्माभिभवात् कृष्ण

Overcome by adharma, O Krishna,
adharmābhibhavāt kṛṣṇa

प्रदुष्यन्ति कुलस्त्रियः

the family's women will be defiled.
praduṣyanti kula-striyaḥ

स्त्रीषु दुष्टासु वार्ष्णेय

When those women are defiled, O Krishna,
strīṣu duṣṭāsu vārṣṇeya

जायते वर्णसङ्करः

jumbling of groups will result.
jāyate varṇa-saṅkaraḥ 1.41

सङ्करो नरकायैव

Such jumbling leads to hell
saṅkaro narakāyaiva

कुलघ्नानां कुलस्य च

for the family and their killers.
kula-ghnānām kulasya ca

पतन्ति पितरो ह्येषां

Their ancestors will fall,
patanti pitaro hyeṣām

लुप्तपिण्डोदकक्रियाः

being deprived of ritual offerings.
lupta-piṇḍodaka-kriyāḥ 1.42

दोषैर् एतैः कुलघ्नानां

Due to their sins
doṣair etaiḥ kula-ghnānām

वर्णसङ्करकारकैः

that jumble the groups,
varṇa-saṅkara-kārakaiḥ

उत्साद्यन्ते जातिधर्माः

laws of the clan will be lost
utsādyante jāti-dharmāḥ

कुलधर्माश्च शाश्वताः

along with the family's ancient laws.
kula-dharmāś ca śāśvatāḥ 1.43

उत्सन्नकुलधर्माणां

When family laws are lost,
utsanna-kula-dharmāṇām

मनुष्याणां जनार्दन

O Krishna, for those people
manuṣyāṇām janārdana

नरके नियतं वासो

going to hell is certain.
narake niyataṁ vāso

भवतीत्यनुशुश्रुम

Thus have we heard.
bhavatīty anuśuśruma 1.44

अहो बत महत् पापं

Oh! What a great sin
aho bata mahat pāpaṁ

कर्तुं व्यवसिता वयम्

we are about to commit.
kartuṁ vyavasitā vayam

यद् राज्यसुखलोभेन

Due to greed for kingship and pleasure,
yad rājya-sukha-lobhena

हन्तुं स्वजनमुद्यताः

we are ready to kill our relatives.
hantuṁ svajanam udyatāḥ 1.45

यदि मामप्रतीकारं

If I were not to fight,
yadi mām apratikāraṁ

अशस्त्रं शस्त्रपाणयः

remaining unarmed and allowing
aśastraṁ śastra-pāṇayaḥ

धार्तराष्ट्रा रणे हन्युस्

Dhritarashtra's sons to kill me in battle,
dhārtarāṣṭrā raṇe hanyus

तन्मे क्षेमतरं भवेत्

that would be better for me.
tan me kṣemataraṁ bhavet 1.46

सञ्जय उवाच

Sanjaya said,
sañjaya uvāca

एवमुक्त्वार्जुनः सङ्ख्ये

After saying this on the battlefield, Arjuna
evam uktvārjunah saṅkhye

रथोपस्थ उपाविशत्

sat down in the chariot.
rathopastha upāviśat

विसृज्य सशरं चापं

He threw down his arrows and bow,
visṛjya saśaram cāpaṁ

शोकसंविग्नमानसः

overwhelmed by sorrow.

śoka-saṁvigna-mānasah 1.47