

- 1 Ādi (225)
- 2 Sabhā (72)
- 3 Āranyaka (299)
- 4 Virāta (67)
- 5 Udyoga (197)
- 6 Bhīshma (117)
- 7 Drona (173)
- 8 Karna (69)
- 9 Shālya (64)
- 10 Saptika (18)
- 11 Strī Parva (27)
- 12 Shānti (353)
- 13 Anushāsana – 154 chapters
- 14 Ashvamedhika (96)
- 15 Āshramavāsika (47)
- 16 Mausala (9)
- 17 Mahāprasthānika (3)
- 18 Svargārohana (5)

Bhishma's Death

Anushāsana Parva
Chapters 152-154

Swami Tadatmananda
Arsha Bodha Center

वैशम्पायन उवाच

Rishi Vaishampayana said,
vaiśampāyana uvāca

तूष्णीम्भूते तदा भीष्मे
Then Bhishma fell silent,
tūṣṇīm-bhūte tadā bhīṣme

पटे चित्रमिवार्षितम् ।
looking like a picture on canvas,
paṭe citram ivārpitam

मुहूर्तमिव च ध्यात्वा
while meditating for a long time.
muhūrtam iva ca dhyātvā

व्यासः सत्यवतीसुतः ।
Vyasa, the son of Satyavati ...
vyāsaḥ satyavatī-sutaḥ

नृपं शयानं गाङ्गेयम्
unto Bhishma, laying on a bed of arrows,
nṛpaṁ śayānaṁ gāṅgeyam

इदमाह वचस्तदा ॥
then said these words:
idam āha vacas tadā (152.1)

व्यास उवाच

Rishi Vyasa said,
vyāsa uvāca

राजन्प्रकृतिमापन्नः

O Bhishma, restored to his senses
rājan prakṛtim āpannaḥ

कुरुराजो युधिष्ठिरः ।

is Yudhishtira, king of the Kurus.
kuru-rājo yudhiṣṭhiraḥ

तमिमं पुरयानाय

For him to return to the city,
tam imaṁ pura-yānāya

त्वमनुज्ञातुमर्हसि ॥

you should give permission.
tvam anujñātum arhasi (152.2,3)

भीष्म उवाच

Bhishma said,
bhīṣma uvāca

प्रविशस्व पुरं राजन्

O Yudhishtira, please return to the city,
praviśasva puram rājan

व्येतु ते मानसो ज्वरः ।

release the tension from your mind,
vyetu te mānaso jvaraḥ

रञ्जयस्व प्रजाः सर्वाः

appease all people of the kingdom,
rañjayasva prajāḥ sarvāḥ

प्रकृतीः परिसान्त्वय ॥

and bring peace to the hearts of all.
prakṛtiḥ parisāntvaya (152.5,8)

अनु त्वां तात जीवन्तु

O Yudhishtira, support
anu tvām tāta jīvantu

मित्राणि सुहृदस्तथा ।

your friends and wellwishers
mitrāṇi suhṛdas tathā

चैत्यस्थाने स्थितं वृक्षं

like a tree in a sacred place
caitya-sthāne sthitam vṛkṣam

फलवन्तमिव द्विजाः ॥

bearing fruit on which birds live.
phalavantam iva dvijāḥ (152.9)

आगन्तव्यं च भवता

You should come back
āgantavyam ca bhavatā

समये मम पार्थिव ।

at the time, O Yudhishtira,
samaye mama pārthiva

विनिवृत्ते दिनकरे

when the sun stops going South
vinivṛtte dinakare

प्रवृत्ते चोत्तरायणे ॥

and turns towards the North.
pravṛtte cottarāyaṇe (152.10)

वैशम्पायन उवाच

Rishi Vaishampayana said,
vaiśampāyana uvāca

तथेत्युक्त्वा तु कौन्तेयः

“So be it” said Yudhishtira.
tathety uktvā tu kaunteyaḥ

सोऽभिवाद्य पितामहम् ।

He saluted his grandfather,
so 'bhivādya pitāmaham

प्रययौ सपरीवारो

and left, accompanied by his brothers,
prayayau sapaṛivāro

नगरं नागसाह्वयम् ॥

for the city of Hastinapura.
nagaraṁ nāgasāhvayam (152.11)

सोऽभिषिक्तो महाप्राज्ञः

Crowned king, the wise
so 'bhiṣikto mahā-prājñah

प्राप्य राज्यं युधिष्ठिरः ।

Yudhishtira regained his kingdom
prāpya rājyaṁ yudhiṣṭhiraḥ

अवस्थाप्य नरश्रेष्ठः

and then restored
avasthāpya nara-śreṣṭhaḥ

सर्वाः स्वप्रकृतीस्तदा ॥

everyone to wellbeing.
sarvāḥ svaprakṛtīstada (153.3)

स निर्ययौ गजपुराद्

He later left Hastinapura,
sa nirayau gaja-purād

याजकैः परिवारितः ।

accompanied by priests,
yājakaiḥ parivāritaḥ

दृष्ट्वा निवृत्तमादित्यं

after seeing the sun stop going South
dṛṣṭvā nivṛttam ādityaṁ

प्रवृत्तं चोत्तरायणम् ॥

and turn towards the North.
pravṛttaṁ cottarāyaṇam (153.6)

धृतराष्ट्रं पुरस्कृत्य

Placing Dhritarashtra in front (of the procession)
dhṛtarāṣṭraṁ puraskṛtya

गान्धारीं च यशस्विनीम् ।

along with the illustrious Gandhari,
gāndhārīṁ ca yaśasvinīm

मातरं च पृथां धीमान्

and his mother, Kunti,
mātaraṁ ca pṛthāṁ dhīmān

भ्रातृंश्च पुरुषर्षभः ॥

along with his brothers, Yudhishtira ...
bhrātṛiṁś ca puruṣa-rṣabhaḥ (153.9)

जनार्दनेनानुगतो

... accompanied by Krishna
janārdanenānugato

विदुरेण च धीमता ।

and the wise Vidura,
vidureṇa ca dhīmatā

स्तूयमानो महाराज

singing hymns, O King,
stūyamāno mahārāja

भीष्मस्याग्नीनुव्रजन् ॥

bringing sacrificial fire for Bhishma ...
bhīṣmasyāgnīn anuvrajan (153.10,11)

निश्चक्राम पुरात्तस्माद्
... (Yuddhithira) left that city
niścakrāma purāt tasmād

यथा देवपतिस्तथा |
like a Lord of gods.
yathā devapatis tathā

आससाद कुरुक्षेत्रे
Reaching the battlefield, he then approached
āsasāda kuru-kṣetre

ततः शान्तनवं नृपम् ||
Bhishma, the son of Shantanu ...
tataḥ śāntanavaṁ nṛpam (153.12)

उपास्यमानं व्यासेन
... who was being served by Vyasa,
upāsyamānaṁ vyāseṇa

पाराशर्येण धीमता |
the wise son of Parashara,
pārāśaryeṇa dhīmatā

नारदेन च राजर्षे
and by the royal sage, Narada,
nāradena ca rājarṣe

देवलेनासितेन च ||
and by Devala and Asita.
devalenāsitena ca (153.13)

युधिष्ठिर उवाच
Yudhishtira said,
yudhiṣṭhira uvāca

युधिष्ठिरोऽहं नृपते
O Bhishma, I am Yudhishtira.
yudhiṣṭhiro 'haṁ nṛpate

नमस्ते जाह्नवीसुत |
Salutations to you, son of Ganga.
namaste jāhnavī-suta

शृणोषि चेन्महाबाहो
O Bhishma, if you can hear me,
śṛṇoṣi cen mahābāho

ब्रूहि किं करवाणि ते ||
please tell me what I can do for you.
brūhi kiṁ karavāṇi te (153.19)

वैशम्पायन उवाच

Rishi Vaishampayana said,
vaiśampāyana uvāca

ततश्चलवलिर्भीष्मः

Then Bhisma,
tataś cala-valir bhīṣmaḥ

प्रगृह्य विपुलं भुजम् ।

grasping Yudhishtira's strong hand,
pragṛhya vipulaṁ bhujam

ओघमेघस्वनो वाग्मी

with thundering voice,
ogha-megha-svano vāgmī

काले वचनमब्रवीत् ॥

then said these words.
kāle vacanam abravīt (153.25)

भीष्म उवाच

Bhishma said,
bhīṣma uvāca

अष्टपञ्चाशतं रात्र्यः

For fifty-eight long nights
aṣṭa-pañcā-śataṁ rātryaḥ

शयानस्याद्य मे गताः ।

I have been laying here now
śayānasyādya me gatāḥ

शरेषु निशिताग्रेषु

on the sharpened points of arrows.
śareṣu niśitāgreṣu

यथा वर्षशतं तथा ॥

It seems like a hundred years.
yathā varṣaśataṁ tathā (153.27)

माघोऽयं समनुप्राप्तो

Now the month of Magha has arrived,
māgho 'yaṁ samanuprāpto

मासः पुण्यो युधिष्ठिर |

the auspicious month, O Yudhishtira.
māsaḥ puṇyo yudhiṣṭhira

त्रिभागशेषः पक्षोऽयं

This is the fourth paksha
tribhāga-śeṣaḥ pakṣo 'yaṁ

शुक्लो भवितुमर्हति ||

which is bright fortnight.
śuklo bhavitum arhati (153.28)

राजन्विदितधर्मोऽसि

O Dhritarashtra, you understand dharma,
rājan vidita-dharmo 'si

सुनिर्णीतार्थसंशयः |

having dismissed all doubts.
sunirṇītārtha-saṁśayaḥ

न शोचितव्यं कौरव्य

O Dhritarashtra, there is no need to grieve.
na śocitavyaṁ kauravya

भवितव्यं हि तत्तथा ||

What must be will be.
bhavitavyaṁ hi tat tathā (153.30,32)

यथा पाण्डोः सुता राजंस्

O Dhritarashtra, the sons of Pandu
yathā pāṇḍoḥ sutā rājaṁs

तथैव तव धर्मतः |

are also your sons, according to dharma.
tathaiva tava dharmataḥ

तान्पालय स्थितो धर्मे

Care for them, who are devoted to dharma
tān pālaya sthito dharme

गुरुशुश्रूषणे रतान् ||

and to the guru.
guru-śuśrūṣaṇe ratān (153.33)

तव पुत्रा दुरात्मानः

Your evil-minded sons,
tava putrā durātmānaḥ

क्रोधलोभपरायणाः |

inclined towards anger and greed,
krodha-lobha-parāyaṇāḥ

ईर्ष्याभिभूता दुर्वृत्तास्

overcome by jealousy, acted wrongly.
īrṣyābhibhūtā durvṛttāś

तान्न शोचितुमर्हसि ||

You should not grieve for them.
tān na śocitum arhasi (153.35)

अनुजानीहि मां कृष्ण

O Krishna, give me permission (to die),
anujānīhi mām kṛṣṇa

वैकुण्ठ पुरुषोत्तम ।

O source of peace and greatest being.
vaikuṅṭha puruṣottama

रक्ष्याश्च ते पाण्डवेया

The Pandavas are to be protected by you.
rakṣyāś ca te pāṇḍaveyā

भवान्ह्येषां परायणम् ॥

Indeed, you are their highest goal.
bhavān hyeṣām parāyaṇam (153.38)

उक्तवानस्मि दुर्बुद्धिं

I told the weak-minded
uktavān asmi durbuddhiṁ

मन्दं दुर्योधनं पुरा ।

Duryodhana long ago that
mandam duryodhanam purā

यतः कृष्णस्ततो धर्मो

wherever Krishna is, there is dharma,
yataḥ kṛṣṇas tato dharmo

यतो धर्मस्ततो जयः ॥

and wherever dharma is, there is victory.
yato dharmas tato jayaḥ (153.39)

वासुदेवेन तीर्थेन

I said, "With the holy Sri Krishna
vāsudevena tīrthena

पुत्र संशाम्य पाण्डवैः ।

and the Pandavas, make peace, O son."
putra saṁśāmya pāṇḍavaiḥ

न च मे तद्वचो मूढः

But my advice that fool did not
na ca me tad vaco mūḍhaḥ

कृतवान्स सुमन्दधीः ॥

follow. He was extremely foolish.
kṛtavān sa sumandadhīḥ (153.40,41)

वासुदेव उवाच

Sri Krishna said,
vāsudeva uvāca

अनुजानामि भीष्म त्वां

O Bhishma, I give you permission
anujānāmi bhīṣma tvām

वसूनाप्रुहि पार्थिव ।

to rejoin the Vasus.

vasūn āpnuhi pārthiva

न तेऽस्ति वृजिनं किञ्चिन्

You have no sin whatsoever

na te 'sti vrjinaṁ kiñcin

मया दृष्टं महाद्युते ॥

in my view, O glorious one.

mayā dr̥ṣṭam mahādyute (153.44)

वैशम्पायन उवाच

Rishi Vaishampayana said,
vaiśampāyana uvāca

एवमुक्तस्तु गाङ्गेयः

Having been thus addressed, Bhishma,
evam uktas tu gāṅgeyaḥ

पाण्डवानिदमब्रवीत् ।

to the Pandavas, said this
pāṇḍavān idam abravīt

धृतराष्ट्रमुखांश्चापि

in the presence of Dhritarashtra
dhṛtarāṣṭra-mukhāṁś cāpi

सर्वान्ससुहृदस्तथा ॥

and all their friends.

sarvān sasuhṛdas tathā (153.46)

भीष्म उवाच

Bhishma said,
bhīṣma uvāca

प्राणानुत्स्रष्टुमिच्छामि

I want to give up my life.

prāṇān utsraṣṭum icchāmi

तन्मानुज्ञातुमर्हथ ।

You all should give me permission.

tan mānujñātum arhatha

सत्ये प्रयतितव्यं वः

For us, truth is to be sought.

satye prayatitavyaṁ vaḥ

सत्यं हि परमं बलम् ॥

Indeed, truth is the greatest strength.

satyaṁ hi paramaṁ balam (153.47)

आनृशंस्यपरैर्भाव्यं

We should be committed to compassion

ānṛśaṁsya-parair bhāvyaṁ

सदैव नियतात्मभिः ॥

and always being self-controlled.

sadaiva niyatātmabhiḥ (153.48)

वैशम्पायन उवाच

Rishi Vaishampayana said,

vaiśampāyana uvāca

एवमुक्त्वा कुरून्सर्वान्

Having spoken thus to all the Kauravas,

evam uktvā kurūn sarvān

भीष्मः शान्तनवस्तदा ।

Bhishma, son of Shantanu, then

bhīṣmaḥ śāntanavas tadā

तूष्णीं बभूव कौरव्यः

fell silent

tūṣṇīm babhūva kauravyaḥ

स मुहूर्तमरिंदम ॥

for a long time, O King.

sa muhūrtam arindama (154.1)

संनिरुद्धस्तु तेनात्मा

Bhishma's soul, restrained
saṁniruddhas tu tenātmā

सर्वेष्वायतनेषु वै ।

from all other passages,
sarveṣv āyataneṣu vai

जगाम भित्त्वा मूर्धानं

escaped through the crown of the head
jagāma bhittvā mūrdhānaṁ

दिवमभ्युत्पपात च ॥

and reached the heavens.
divam abhyutpapāta ca (154.5)

ततस्त्वादाय दारूणि

And then, after gathering wood
tatas tvādāya dārūṇi

गन्धांश्च विविधान्बहून् ।

and various fragrant materials,
gandhāṁś ca vividhān bahūn

चितां चक्रुर्महात्मानः

a pyre was made by the great
citāṁ cakrur mahātmānaḥ

पाण्डवा विदुरस्तथा ॥

Pandavas along with Vidura.
pāṇḍavā viduras tathā (154.8)

ततोऽस्य विधिवच्चक्रुः

Then they performed, according to scripture,
tato 'sya vidhivac cakruḥ

पितृमेधं महात्मनः ।

the sacrificial offering of Bhishma.
pitṛ-medhaṁ mahātmanaḥ

याजका जुहुवुश्चाग्निं

Worshippers offered oblations into the fire
yājakā juhuvuś cāgniṁ

जगुः सामानि सामगाः ॥

and priests chanted hymns.
jaguḥ sāmāni sāmagāḥ (154.12)

संस्कृत्य च कुरुश्रेष्ठं

After cremating Bhishma,
saṁskṛtya ca kuru-śreṣṭhāṁ

गाङ्गेयं कुरुसत्तमाः ।

the son of Ganga, all the Kurus
gāṅgeyaṁ kuru-sattamāḥ

जग्मुर्भागीरथीतीरम्

went to the bank of the Bhagirathi river
jagmur bhāgīrathī-tīram

ऋषिजुष्टं कुरूद्वहाः ॥

accompanied by rishis.
ṛṣi-juṣṭāṁ kurūdvaḥāḥ(154.15)

ततो भागीरथी देवी

Then goddess Ganga,
tato bhāgīrathī devī

तनयस्योदके कृते |

while water was offered for her son,
tanayasyodake kṛte

उत्थाय सलिलात्तस्माद्

arose from the waters
utthāya salilāt tasmād

रुदती शोकलालसा ||

crying, stricken with grief.
rudatī śoka-lālasā (154.18)

वासुदेव उवाच

Sri Krishna said,
vāsudeva uvāca

समाश्वसिहि भद्रे त्वं

O Ganga, be at peace.
samāśvasihi bhadre tvam

मा शुचः शुभदर्शने |

Do not grieve, O Ganga.
mā śucaḥ śubha-darśane

गतः स परमां सिद्धिं

To the supreme goal has gone
gataḥ sa paramām siddhim

तव पुत्रो न संशयः ||

your son, without doubt.
tava putro na saṁśayaḥ (154.27)

वसुरेष महातेजाः

He was a glorious Vasu.
vasur eṣa mahā-tejāḥ

शापदोषेण शोभने |

O Ganga, due to a curse
śāpa-doṣeṇa śobhane

मनुष्यतामनुप्राप्तो

he was born as a man.
manuṣyatām anuprāpto

नैनं शोचितुमर्हसि ||

You should not grieve for him.
nainam śocitum arhasi (154.28)

स्वच्छन्देन सुतस्तुभ्यं

Your son, by his own choice,
svacchandena sutas tubhyaṁ

गतः स्वर्गं शुभानने ।

has gone to heaven, O Ganga.
gataḥ svargaṁ śubhānane

वसूनेषु गतो देवि

He has rejoined the Vasus, O Ganga.
vasūn eṣa gato devi

पुत्रस्ते विज्वरा भव ॥

For your son, be free from grief.
putras te vijvarā bhava (154.31,32)

वैशम्पायन उवाच

Rishi Vaishampayana said,
vaiśampāyana uvāca

इत्युक्त्वा सा तु कृष्णेन

Having been thus addressed by Sri Krishna
ity uktā sā tu kṛṣṇena

व्यासेन च सरिद्वरा ।

and by Vyasa, goddess Ganga
vyāseṇa ca saridvarā

त्यक्त्वा शोकं महाराज

abandoned her grief, O King,
tyaktvā śokaṁ mahārāja

स्वं वार्यवततार ह ॥

and descended into the waters.
svaṁ vāryavatātāra ha (154.33)