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**Dhritarashtra's
lament
to Sanjaya**

Āranyaka Parva
Chapters 46, 48

Swami Tadatmananda
Arsha Bodha Center

वैशम्पायन उवाच

Rishi Vaishampayana said,
vaiśampāyana uvāca

शक्रलोकगतं पार्थ

Having heard about Arjuna's time in Indra loka,
śakra-loka-gataṁ pārthaṁ

श्रुत्वा राजाम्बिकासुतः |

(King Dhritarashtra, son of Ambika)
śrutvā rājāmbikāsutaḥ

द्वैपायनादृषिश्रेष्ठात्

from Vyasa, the greatest of rishis,
dvaipāyanād ṛṣiśreṣṭhāt

सञ्जयं वाक्यमब्रवीत् ||

he said this to Sanjaya.

sañjayaṁ vākyaṁ abravīt (46.2)

धृतराष्ट्र उवाच

King Dhritarashtra said,
dhṛtarāṣṭra uvāca

त्रैलोक्यमपि तस्य स्याद्

He could conquer the three worlds,
trailokyam api tasya syād

योद्धा यस्य धनञ्जयः |

for whom the warrior, Arjuna, fights.
yoddhā yasya dhanañjayah

कोऽर्जुनस्याग्रतस्तिष्ठेद्

Who could stand before Arjuna
ko 'rjunasyāgratas tiṣṭhed

अपि मृत्युजरातिगः ||

even if he has overcome death and old age?
api mṛtyu-jarātigaḥ (46.5,6)

मम पुत्रा दुरात्मानः

My evil-minded sons -
mama putrā durātmānaḥ

सर्वे मृत्युवशं गताः |

all of them will certainly die
sarve mṛtyu-vaśaṁ gatāḥ

येषां युद्धं दुराधर्षैः

fighting with the undefeatable
yeṣāṁ yuddham durādharṣaiḥ

पाण्डवैः प्रत्युपस्थितम् ||

Pandavas as their opponents.
pāṇḍavaiḥ pratyupasthitam (46.7)

यथा हि किरणा भानोस्

Just as the rays of the sun
yathā hi kiraṇā bhānos

तपन्तीह चराचरम् |

scorch everything here, living or not,
tapantīha carācaram

तथा पार्थभुजोत्सृष्टाः

so too, the arrows shot by Arjuna's arms
tathā pārtha-bhujotsrṣṭāḥ

शरास्तप्स्यन्ति मे सुतान् ||

will scorch my sons.
śarās tapsyanti me sutān (46.16)

सञ्जय उवाच

Sanjaya said,
sañjaya uvāca

मन्युना हि समाविष्टाः

Filled with anger

manyunā hi samāviṣṭāḥ

पाण्डवास्तेऽमितौजसः |

are the Pandavas of limitless might

pāṇḍavās te 'mitaujaṣaḥ

दृष्ट्वा कृष्णां सभां नीतां

after seeing dragged into the hall Draupadi,

dr̥ṣṭvā kṛṣṇāṁ sabhāṁ nītāṁ

धर्मपत्नीं यशस्विनीम् ||

the illustrious wife of Yudhishtira.

dharma-patnīm yaśasvinīm (46.20)

यत्र विस्फुरमाणोष्ठो

In the hall, with his lips quivering,

yatra visphuramāṇoṣṭho

भीमः प्राह वचो महत् |

Bhima uttered a terrible vow

bhīmaḥ prāha vaco mahat

दृष्ट्वा दुर्योधनेनोरू

after seeing Duryodhana

dr̥ṣṭvā duryodhanenorū

द्रौपद्या दर्शितावुभौ ||

show his thighs to Draupadi.

draupadyā darśitāvubhau (46.28)

ऊरू भेत्स्यामि ते पाप

"O sinner, I will break your thighs

ūrū bhetsyāmi te pāpa

गदया वज्रकल्पया |

with my diamond-hard mace

gadayā vajra-kalpayā

त्रयोदशानां वर्षाणाम्

after thirteen years

trayodaśānām varṣāṇām

अन्ते दुर्द्यूतदेविनः ||

have elapsed, O cheater at dice."

ante durdyūta-devinaḥ (46.29)

धृतराष्ट्र उवाच

King Dritarashtra said,

dhṛtarāṣṭra uvāca

अपीदानीं मम सुतास्

How can my sons
apīdānīm mama sutās

तिष्ठेरन्मन्दचेतसः |

survive, being dull-witted,
tiṣṭheran manda-cetasah

येषां भ्राता गुरुर्ज्येष्ठो

when their eldest brother and guru (Duryodhana)
yeṣām bhrātā gurur jyeṣṭho

विनये नावतिष्ठते ||

does not follow dharma?
vinaye nāvatiṣṭhate (46.33)

पार्थबाहुबलोत्सृष्टा

(Arrows) fired by Arjuna's mighty arms,
pārtha-bāhu-balotsṛṣṭā

महाचापविनिःसृताः |

released from his mighty bow,
mahā-cāpa-viniḥsṛtāḥ

दिव्यास्त्रमन्त्रमुदिताः

transformed by mantras into divine weapons,
divyāstra-mantra-muditāḥ

सादयेयुः सुरानपि ||

could destroy even the gods.
sādayeyuḥ surānapi (46.37)

ममापि वचनं सूत

O Sanjaya, my instructions
mamāpi vacanaṁ sūta

न शुश्रूषति मन्दभाक् |

he (Duryodhana) doesn't want to hear, being dull-witted,
na śuśrūṣati manda-bhāk

दृष्ट्वा मां चक्षुषा हीनं

knowing me to be blind,
dṛṣṭvā mām cakṣuṣā hīnaṁ

निर्विचेष्टमचेतनम् ||

unable to walk about, and thinking me foolish.
nirviceṣṭam acetanam (46.34)

यस्य मन्त्री च गोप्ता च

Having as adviser, protector,
yasya mantrī ca goptā ca

सुहृच्चैव जनार्दनः |

and friend - Krishna -
suhṛcaiva janārdanaḥ

हरिस्त्रैलोक्यनाथः स

who is Vishnu, Lord of the three worlds,
haris trailokya-nāthaḥ sa

किं नु तस्य न निर्जितम् ||

what could he not conquer?
kiṁ nu tasya na nirjitam (46.38)

ततोऽहं सुहृदां वाचो

The advice of my well-wishers,
tato 'haṁ suhṛdāṁ vāco

दुर्योधनवशानुगः ।

that I, influenced by Duryodhana,
duryodhana-vaśānugaḥ

स्मरणीयाः स्मरिष्यामि

should have followed, I now recall.
smaraṇīyāḥ smarīṣyāmi

मया या न कृताः पुरा ॥

I could not follow it before.
mayā yā na kṛtāḥ purā (48.10)

यन्माब्रवीद्विदुरो द्यूतकाले

Vidura told me during the dice game,
yan mābravīd viduro dyūta-kāle

त्वं पाण्डवाञ्जेष्यसि चेन्नरेन्द्र ।

"You will defeat the Pandava's (in dice), O King,
tvaṁ pāṇḍavāñ jeṣyasi cen narendra

ध्रुवं कुरूणामयमन्तकालो

but for the Kauravas, it will certainly lead to destruction
dhruvaṁ kurūṇām ayam anta-kālo

महाभयो भविता शोणितौघः ॥

in a fearful bloodbath."
mahā-bhayo bhavitā śoṇitaughaḥ (48.40)