

- 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 Sauptika (18)
- 11 Strī Parva (27)
- 12 Shānti (353)
- 13 Anushāsana (154)
- 14 Ashvamedhika – 96 chapters
- 15 Āshramavāsika (47)
- 16 Mausala (9)
- 17 Mahāprasthānika (3)
- 18 Svargārohana (5)

Anugita
Alarka Defeats His
Mind and Senses
Ashvamedika Parva
Chapter 30

Swami Tadatmananda
Arsha Bodha Center

अलर्को नाम राजर्षिर्

There was a royal sage named Alarka.
alarko nāma rājarṣir

अभवत्सुमहातपाः ।

He practiced great austerities,
abhavat sumahā-tapāḥ

धर्मज्ञः सत्यसन्धश्च

knew dharma, was committed to truth,
dharmajñāḥ satya-sandhaś ca

महात्मा सुमहाव्रतः ॥

was saintly and kept firm vows.
mahātmā sumahā-vrataḥ (30.2)

स्थितस्य वृक्षमूलेऽथ

Then, sitting at the foot of a tree,
sthitasya vṛkṣa-mūle 'tha

तस्य चिन्ता बभूव ह ।

his thoughts became
tasya cintā babhūva ha

उत्सृज्य सुमहद्राज्यं

turned away from his huge kingdom
utsrjya sumahad-rājyaṁ

सूक्ष्मं प्रति महामते ॥

and concentrated on the subtle.
sūkṣmaṁ prati mahāmate (30.4)

अलर्क उवाच

Alarka said,
alarka uvāca

मनसो मे बलं जातं

My mind has become too strong.
manaso me balaṁ jātaṁ

मनो जित्वा ध्रुवो जयः ।

After conquering my mind, victory is certain.
mano jitvā dhruvo jayaḥ

अन्यत्र बाणानस्यामि

I will direct my arrows elsewhere (towards my mind),
anyatra bāṇān asyāmi

शत्रुभिः परिवारितः ॥

even though I'm surrounded by enemies.
śatrubhiḥ parivāritaḥ (30.5)

यदिदं चापलान्मूर्तेः

This mind, due to it's unsteady nature,
yad idaṁ cāpalān mūrteḥ

सर्वमेतच्चिकीर्षति ।

wants everything.
sarvam etac cikīrṣati

मनः प्रति सुतीक्ष्णाग्रान्

Towards the mind, sharp
manaḥ prati sutīkṣṇāgrān

अहं मोक्ष्यामि सायकान् ॥

arrows I will shoot.
ahaṁ mokṣyāmi sāyakān (30.6)

मन उवाच

Alarka's mind said,
mana uvāca

नेमे बाणास्तरिष्यन्ति

These arrows cannot reach
neme bāṇās tariṣyanti

मामलर्क कथञ्चन ।

me at all, O Alarka.
mām alarka kathañcana

तवैव मर्म भेत्स्यन्ति

Your own flesh they will strike.
tavaiva marma bhetsyanti

भिन्नमर्मा मरिष्यसि ॥

With your flesh pierced, you will die.
bhinna-marmā mariṣyasi (30.7)

अन्यान्बाणान्समीक्षस्व

Look for other arrows
anyān bāṇān samīkṣasva

यैस्त्वं मां सूदयिष्यसि ।

with which you can kill me.
yais tvaṁ māṁ sūdayiṣyasi

तच्छ्रुत्वा स विचिन्त्याथ

Having heard that and thought about it, Alarka
tac chrutvā sa vicintyātha

ततो वचनमब्रवीत् ॥

then said these words:
tato vacanam abravīt (30.8)

अलर्क उवाच

Alarka said,
alarka uvāca

आघ्राय सुबहून्गन्धांस्

Having smelled many fragrances,
āghrāya subahūn gandhāṁs

तानेव प्रतिगृध्यति ।

my nose wants more fragrances.
tān eva pratigṛdhyati

तस्माद्घ्राणं प्रति शरान्

Therefore, towards my nose,
tasmād ghrāṇaṁ prati śarān

प्रतिमोक्ष्याम्यहं शितान् ॥

I will shoot sharpened arrows.
pratimokṣyāmy ahaṁ śitān (30.9)

घ्राण उवाच

Alarka's nose said,
ghrāṇa uvāca

नेमे बाणास्तरिष्यन्ति

These arrows cannot reach
neme bāṇās tariṣyanti

मामलर्क कथञ्चन |

me at all, O Alarka.
mām alarka kathañcana

तवैव मर्म भेत्स्यन्ति

Your own flesh they will strike.
tavaiva marma bhetsyanti

भिन्नमर्मा मरिष्यसि ||

With your flesh pierced, you will die.
bhinna-marmā mariṣyasi (30.10)

अलर्क उवाच

Alarka said,
alarka uvāca

इयं स्वादून्नसान्भुक्त्वा

My tongue, having enjoyed pleasant flavors,
iyam svādūn rasān bhuktvā

तानेव प्रतिगृध्यति |

wants more flavors.
tān eva pratigṛdhyati

तस्माञ्जिह्वां प्रति शरान्

Therefore, towards my tongue,
tasmāj jhivām prati śarān

प्रतिमोक्ष्याम्यहं शितान् ||

I will shoot sharpened arrows.
pratimokṣyāmy aham śitān (30.12)

जिह्वावाच

Alarka's tongue said,
jihvovāca

नेमे बाणास्तरिष्यन्ति

These arrows cannot reach
neme bāṇās tariṣyanti

मामलर्क कथञ्चन |

me at all, O Alarka.
mām alarka kathañcana

तवैव मर्म भेत्स्यन्ति

Your own flesh they will strike.
tavaiva marma bhetsyanti

भिन्नमर्मा मरिष्यसि ||

With your flesh pierced, you will die.
bhinna-marmā mariṣyasi (30.13)

अलर्क उवाच

Alarka said,
alarka uvāca

स्पृष्ट्वा त्वग्विविधान्स्पर्शांस्

My skin, having felt many sensations,
sprṣṭvā tvag vividhān sparsāṁs

तानेव प्रतिगृह्यति |

wants more sensations.
tān eva pratigṛdhyati

तस्मात्त्वचं पाटयिष्ये

Therefore, I will strip off my skin
tasmāt tvacaṁ pāṭayiṣye

विविधैः कङ्कपत्रिभिः ||

with many feathered arrows.
vividhaiḥ kaṅka-patribhiḥ (30.15)

त्वग उवाच

Alarka's skin said,
tvag uvāca

नेमे बाणास्तरिष्यन्ति

These arrows cannot reach
neme bāṇās tariṣyanti

मामलर्क कथञ्चन |

me at all, O Alarka.
mām alarka kathañcana

तवैव मर्म भेत्स्यन्ति

Your own flesh they will strike.
tavaiva marma bhetsyanti

भिन्नमर्मा मरिष्यसि ||

With your flesh pierced, you will die.
bhinna-marmā mariṣyasi (30.16)

अलर्क उवाच

Alarka said,
alarka uvāca

श्रुत्वा वै विविधाञ्शब्दांस्

Having heard many sounds,
śrutvā vai vividhāñ śabdāṁs

तानेव प्रतिगृध्यति |

my ear wants more sounds.
tān eva pratigṛdhyati

तस्माच्छ्रोत्रं प्रति शरान्

Therefore, towards my ear
tasmāc chrotraṁ prati śarān

प्रतिमोक्ष्याम्यहं शितान् ||

I will shoot sharpened arrows.
pratimokṣyāmy ahaṁ śitān (30.18)

श्रोत्र उवाच

Alarka's ear said,
śrotra uvāca

नेमे बाणास्तरिष्यन्ति

These arrows cannot reach
neme bāṇās tariṣyanti

मामलर्क कथञ्चन |

me at all, O Alarka.
māmalarka kathañcana

तवैव मर्म भेत्स्यन्ति

Your own flesh they will strike,
tavaiva marma bhetsyanti

ततो हास्यसि जीवितम् ||

and you will lose your life.
tato hāsyasi jīvitam (30.19)

अलर्क उवाच

Alarka said,
alarka uvāca

दृष्ट्वा वै विविधान्भावांस्

Having seen many things,
dṛṣṭvā vai vividhān bhāvāṁs

तानेव प्रतिगृध्यति |

my eye wants to see more things.
tān eva pratigṛdhyati

तस्माच्चक्षुः प्रति शरान्

Therefore, towards my eye
tasmāc cakṣuḥ prati śarān

प्रतिमोक्ष्याम्यहं शितान् ||

I will shoot sharpened arrows.
pratimokṣyāmy ahaṁ śitān (30.21)

चक्षुर उवाच

Alarka's eye said,
cakṣur uvāca

नेमे बाणास्तरिष्यन्ति

These arrows cannot reach
neme bāṇās tariṣyanti

मामलर्क कथञ्चन |

me at all, O Alarka.
mām alarka kathañcana

तवैव मर्म भेत्स्यन्ति

Your own flesh they will strike.
tavaiva marma bhetsyanti

भिन्नमर्मा मरिष्यसि ||

With your flesh pierced, you will die.
bhinna-marmā mariṣyasi (30.22)

अलर्क उवाच

Alarka said,
alarka uvāca

इयं निष्ठा बहुविधा

My intellect is established in many kinds
iyam niṣṭhā bahavidhā

प्रज्ञया त्वध्यवस्यति |

of knowledge, but it wants more.
prajñayā tv adhyavasyati

तस्माद्बुद्धिं प्रति शरान्

Therefore, towards my intellect
tasmād buddhiṁ prati śarān

प्रतिमोक्ष्याम्यहं शितान् ||

I will shoot sharpened arrows.
pratimokṣyāmy ahaṁ śitān (30.24)

बुद्धिर उवाच

Alarka's intellect said,
buddhir uvāca

नेमे बाणास्तरिष्यन्ति

These arrows cannot reach
neme bāṇās tariṣyanti

मामलर्क कथञ्चन |

me at all, O Alarka.
mām alarka kathañcana

तवैव मर्म भेत्स्यन्ति

Your own flesh they will strike.
tavaiva marma bhetsyanti

भिन्नमर्मा मरिष्यसि ||

With your flesh pierced, you will die.
bhinna-marmā mariṣyasi (30.25)

ब्राह्मण उवाच

The brahmana said,
brāhmaṇa uvāca

ततोऽलर्कस्तपो घोरम

Then, terrible austerities Alarka
tato 'larkas tapo ghoram

आस्थायाथ सुदुष्करम् |

performed with great difficulty.
āsthāyātha suduṣkaram

नाध्यगच्छत्परं शक्त्या

But with his effort, he could not obtain
nādhyagacchat param śaktyā

बाणमेतेषु सप्तसु ||

an arrow (capable of killing) these seven organs.
bāṇam eteṣu saptasu (30.26)

सुसमाहितचेतास्तु

Then, with a finely concentrated mind,
susamāhita-cetās tu

ततोऽचिन्तयत प्रभुः |

Alarka contemplated.
tato 'cintayata prabhuḥ

स विचिन्त्य चिरं कालम

After contemplating a long time,
sa vicintya ciram kālam

अलर्को द्विजसत्तम ||

O great one, Alarka
alarko dvija-sattama (30.26,27)

स एकाग्रं मनः कृत्वा

... making his mind one-pointed,
sa ekāgraṁ manaḥ kṛtvā

निश्चलो योगमास्थितः |

practiced meditation without moving
niścalo yogam āsthitaḥ

इन्द्रियाणि जघानाशु

and he defeated his organs
indriyāṇi jaghānāśu

बाणेनैकेन वीर्यवान् ||

with one arrow, being diligent.
bāṇenaikena vīryavān (30.28)

योगेनात्मानमाविश्य

Turning within by means of meditation,
yogenātmānam āviśya

संसिद्धिं परमां ययौ |

he reached supreme perfection.
saṁsiddhiṁ paramāṁ yayau

विस्मितश्चापि राजर्षिर्

The royal sage was amazed
vismitaś cāpi rājarṣir

इमां गाथां जगाद ह ||

and said this verse:
imāṁ gāthāṁ jagāda ha (30.28,29)

अहो कष्टं यदस्माभिः

Oh! What a pity that I
aho kaṣṭaṁ yad asmābhiḥ

पूर्वं राज्यमनुष्ठितम् |

previously ruled the kingdom.
pūrvam rājyam anuṣṭhitam

इति पश्चान्मया ज्ञातं

Now, I understand that
iti paścān mayā jñātaṁ

योगान्नास्ति परं सुखम् ||

there is no greater happiness than meditation.
yogān nāsti param sukham (30.29)