

# Bhagavad Gita

Vedic Society Hindu Temple,  
Southampton



# Prarthana

Aum Aum Aum

Aum Vasudevasutam Devam, Kansa Chanura Mardanam  
Devaki Paramanandam, Krushnam Vande Jagadguru

Guru Brahma Guru Vishnu, Guru Devo Maheshvarah  
Guru Sakshat Parabrahma, Tasmai Shri Gurave Namah

Aum Saha Navavatu Saha Nau Bhunaktu Saha Viryam Karavavahai  
Tejasvina Vadhi Tamastu Maa Vidvishavahai  
Aum Shanti Shanti Shantihi

# Summary

- A jewel within the Mahabharata
- Adi Shankaracharya
- Teachings by Shri Krishna when Arjuna is confused before the war

# Chapter 1

Arjuna Vishada Yoga

The Path of Arjuna's Grief

# Summary

- Summary of Chapter 1 – Arjuna Vishada Yoga
- Verses 1 to 25 is preparation for war
- Verses 27 to 47 Arjuna is overcome and argues against taking part in the war

# Dhritarashtra & Sanjaya



## Verse 1.1

dhrtarastra uvaca  
dharma-ksetre kuru-ksetre, samaveta yuyutsavah  
mamakah pandavas caiva, kim akurvata Sanjaya

Dhritarashtra said

What did the sons of Pandu and also my people do, when desirous to fight, they assembled together on the holy plain of Kurukshetra, O Sanjaya?

# Summary of last week

Dharma - various meanings: Religion, Duty, Nature, the Supreme

Dharmakshetra Kurukshetra

Choice between Shreyas and Preyas - Good and Pleasant

What influences our choices?



# Verse 1.1 to 1.3



## Verse 1.2

1.2 sanjaya uvaca

drstva tu pandavanikam vyudham duryodhanas tada  
acaryam upasangamya raja vacanam abravat

1.3 pasyaitam pandu-putranam, acarya mahatim camum  
vyudham drupada-putrena, tava sisylene dhimata

Sanjaya says:

Having seen the army of the Pandavas drawn up in battle array, King Duryodhana then approached his teacher (Drona) and spoke these words.

O my teacher, behold the great army of the sons of Pandu, so expertly arranged by your intelligent disciple, the son of Drupada

# Chapter 1.2

Sanjaya narrates with his Divya Dhristi - Divine Vision

Duryodhana means difficult to conquer

Duryodhana goes to Drona.

Why?

Drona is his teacher.

Drona is security, a habit. Goes to him as a child to the mother.

In a state of insecurity, one goes for security.

## Verse 1.3

- Drona and King Drupad had a disagreement
- King Drupad is Draupadi's father
- Drupad's son learnt his war craft from Drona
  
- Duryodhana is taunting Drona
- He wants to ensure Drona's loyalty
- Duryodhana talks to his Guru without trust

# V1.4 to 1.6



## Verses 1.4 to 1.6

1.4

Here are the heroes, mighty archers, equal in battle to Bhima and Arjuna, Yuyudhana, Virata and Drupada, each commanding eleven thousand archers.

1.5

Dhrishtaketu, Chekitana and the valiant king of Kashi, Purujit and Kuntibhoja and Saibya, the best of men.

1.6

The strong Yudhamanyu and the brave Uttamaujas, the son of Subhadra and the sons of Draupadi, all of them divisional commanders.

# Verses 1.7 to 1.11



## Verses 1.7 to 1.8

asmakam tu visista ye, tan nibodha dvijottama  
nayaka mama sainyasya, samjnartham tan bravimi te  
bhavan bhismas ca karnas ca, krpas ca samitim-jayah  
asvatthama vikarnas ca, saumadattis tathaiva ca

1.7

Know also, O best among the twice-born, the names of those who are the most distinguished amongst ourselves, the leaders of my army; these I name for your information.

1.8

Yourself and Bhishma, and Karna and also Kripa, the victorious in war;  
Aswatthama, Vikarna, and so also the son of Somadatta.



## Verses 1.7 to 1.8

Duryodhana lists Kaurava army leaders to Drona

He calls Drona 'twice-born'.

Twice-born is a Brahmin. Born of the mother and then with education and study of the scriptures he is said to be twice born.

Duryodhana's ego on display - My army

## Verses 1.9 to 1.11

anye ca bahavah sura, mad-arthe tyakta-jivitah  
nana-sastra-praharanah, sarve yuddha-visaradah  
aparyaptam tad asmakam, balam bhismabhiraksitam  
paryaptam tv idam etesam, balam bhimabhiraksitam

1.9

And many other heroes also who are determined to give up their lives for my sake, armed with various weapons and missiles, all well skilled in battle.

1.10

This army of ours, protected by Bhishma is unlimited, whereas that army of theirs protected by Bhima is limited.

1.11

Therefore, all of you, stationed in your respective positions in the several divisions of the army, protect Bhishma alone.

## Verses 1.9 to 1.11

An expectation that the army leaders will die

Duryodhana notes that their army is protected by Bhishma

Duryodhana commands all his army to protect Bhishma

There is desire and fear in Duryodhana

Do we also have desires and fears in our daily lives?

# Verses 1.12 to 1.13



दुष्करो द्योगन्वाभ  
सर्वशः पृथिवीपते ।  
सौमद्रथ महाबाहु ।  
सद्धान्द्रज्युः पृथक्पृथक् ॥ १ - १४ ॥  
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## Verses 1.12 to 1.13

tasya sanjanayan harsam, kuru-vrddhah pitamahah  
simha-nadam vinadyoccaih, sankham dadhmau pratapavan  
tatah sankhas ca bheryas ca, panavanaka-gomukhah  
Sahasaivabhyahanyanta, sa sabdas tumulo 'bhavat

1.12

His glorious grandsire (Bhishma) the oldest of the Kauravas, in order to cheer Duryodhana, blew his conch that now sounded like a lion's roar.

1.13

Then (following Bhisma) conches and kettledrums, tabors, drums and cow-horns blared forth quite suddenly and the sound was tremendous.

## Verses 1.12 to 1.13

Bhishma is the oldest of the Kauravas.

To cheer Duryodhana Bhishma blows his conch.

Bhishma recognises the anxiety of Duryodhana.

In the silence of Drona he understands Drona's anger and the discomfort.

This action of Bhishma is the first blow, 'firing the first shot' and makes the Kauravas the aggressors. It starts the war off.

All the conches are blown with release of tension.

# Verse 1.14



## Verse 1.14

tatah svetair hayair yukte, mahati syandane sthitau  
madhavah pandavas caiva, divyau sankhau pradadhmatuh

1.14

Then, also Madhava and the son of Pandu, seated in their magnificent chariot yoked with white horses, blew their divine conches.





## Verse 1.14

Krishna and Arjun blow their divine conches.

The 2 great characters of the Bhagavad Gita now appear.  
The description is glorifying.

Krishna is spoken of first and then Arjun.

Krishna is introduced as Madhava - husband of Laxmi - Goddess of fortune.

Arjuna is introduced as the son of Pandu.

# Arjuna's Chariot

The chariot is Mahati = 'magnificent'  
The chariot was given to Arjun by Lord Agni.  
Hanumanji is on the flag - Kapi dhwaja.



# Verse 1.15 & 1.16



## Verse 1.15 & 1.16

pancajanya hrsikeso, devadattam dhananjayah  
paundram dadhmau maha-sankham, bhima-karma vrkodarah  
anantavijayam raja, kunti-putro yudhisthirah  
nakulah sahademas ca' sughosa-manipuspakau

1.15

Hrishikesha blew the Panchajanya and Dhananjaya (Arjuna) blew the Devadatta and Vrikodara (Bhima) the doer of terrible deeds, blew the great conch named Paundra.

1.16

King Yudhishthira, the son of Kunti, blew the Anantavijaya; Nakula and Sahadeva blew the Sughosha and the Manipushpaka.

## Verse 1.15 & 1.16

6 divine conches of Krishna and 5 Pandavas are individually named.

Sri Krishna's conch is Panchajanya

Arjuna's conch is Devadutta

Bhima's conch is Paudra

Yudhisthira's conch is Anantavijaya

Nakula's conch is Sughosha

Sahadeva's conch is Manipushpaka

# Verse 1.17 & 1.18



## Verse 1.17 & 1.18

1.17

The king of Kashi, an excellent archer, Shikhandi, the mighty commander of eleven thousand archers; Dhristayumna and Virata and Satyaki, the unconquered.

1.18

Drupada and the sons of Draupadi, O Lord of the Earth, and the son of Subhadra, the mighty armed, blew their respective conches.

## Verse 1.17 & 1.18

The warriors on the Pandavas side are listed

They all blew their conches



# Conches

Conch is Shankha

The shell of a large sea snail

It can spiral anticlockwise or clockwise

It is a sacred object

A symbol of Purity and Auspiciousness

When blown the sound symbolizes 'Om'

It purifies the surroundings

Conch blown in Aarti

Also used to bathe murtis of deities with water or milk

# Verse 1.19



दुष्करो जोगन्वाभ  
सर्वशः पृथिवीपते ।  
सौमद्रथ महाबाहु ।  
सद्धान्द्रजुः पृथक्पुरुष ॥ १ - १८ ॥  
duṣkaro joganvābh  
sarvaśaḥ pṛthivīpate ।  
sāumadratha mahābāhu  
sādhdhāndrajūḥ pṛthak pṛthak ॥ १ - १८ ॥

## Verse 1.19

sa ghoso dhartarastranam, hrdayani vyadarayat  
nabhas ca prthivim caiva, tumulo 'bhyanunadayan

1.19

That tumultuous sound rent the hearts of Dhritarashtra's party and made both heaven and earth reverberate.

# Bhagavad Gita

## Questions & Comments



# Closing Prarthana

Aum Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina, Sarve Santu Niramaya  
Sarve Bhadrani Pashyant, Ma Kashchid Dukha Bhak Bhavet

Asato Ma Sat Gamaya  
Tamaso Ma Jyotir Gamaya  
Mrityor Ma Amritam Gamaya

Aum Poornam-adah Poornam-idam, Poornat Poornam Udachyate,  
Poornasya Poornam-adaya, Poornam-eva Vashisyate.  
Aum Shanti Shanti Shantihi

# Bhagavad Gita

Next class Thursday 7 July at 7:30pm

