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Maha·bhárata

Book Eight

Karna

Volume Two



Translated by
ADAM BOWLES

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MAHĀBHĀRATA

BOOK EIGHT

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VOLUME TWO

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84-96

THE SLAYING OF KARNA

84.1 **D**UḤŚĀSANE TU NIHATE, putrās tava mahā|rathāḥ,
 mahā|krodha|viṣā vīrāḥ, samareṣv a|palāyinaḥ,
 daśa, rājan, mahā|vīryā Bhīmaṃ prācchādayaṅ śaraṇiḥ.
 Niṣaṅgī, Kavacī, Pāśī, Daṇḍadhāro, Dhanurdharaḥ,
 Alolupaḥ, Śalaḥ, Ṣaṇḍho, Vātavega|Suvarcasau,
 ete sametya sahitā bhrātṛ|vyasana|karśītāḥ
 Bhīmasenaṃ mahā|bāhuṃ mārṅaṇaiḥ samavārayan.
 sa vāryamāṇo viśikhaiḥ

samantāt tair mahā|rathaiḥ,

Bhīmaḥ krodh'|āgni|rakt'|ākṣaḥ,

kruddhaḥ Kāla iv' ābabhau.

84.5 tāṃs tu bhallair mahā|vegair

daśabhir daśa Bhāratān

rukma'|āṅgadān rukma|puṅkhaiḥ

Pārtho ninye Yama|kṣayam.

hateṣu teṣu vīreṣu, pradudrāva balaṃ tava

paśyataḥ sūta|putrasya Pāṇḍavasya bhay'|ārditam.

tataḥ Karṇo, mahā|rāja, praviveśa mahā|bhayam
 dṛṣṭvā Bhīmasya vikrāntam, Antakasya prajāsv iva.

tasya tv ākāra|bhāva|jñāḥ Śalyaḥ samiti|śobhanaḥ

uvāca vacanaṃ Karṇaṃ prāpta|kālam ariṃ|damam:

SÁÑJAYA said:

BUT ONCE DUHSHÁSANA had been killed, king, ten of 84.1
your courageous sons who were poisonous with rage,
mighty warriors and heroes who never retreated in bat-
tle, enveloped Bhima with arrows. Nishágin, Kávachin,
Pashin, Danda·dhara, Dhanur·dhara, Alólupa, Shala, Shan-
dha, Vata·vega and Suvárchas, listless due to the evil crime
against their brother, together drew close to mighty-armed
Bhima·sena and covered him in arrows. Obstructed on all
sides by those mighty warriors with their arrows, Bhima
was as radiant as Time the destroyer in rage, his eyes crim-
son with the fire of his fury. With ten high-speed broad- 84.5
headed arrows having nocks of gold, Pritha's son sent those
ten Bháratas sporting golden armlets to Yama's realm. With
those heroes killed, your army fled, racked with fear of the
Pándava, while the charioteer's son looked on.

Karna then began to feel great trepidation, great king,
after seeing the courage of Bhima which was like that of
Death towards living things. Shalya, who dazzled in battle,
recognized what his expression meant and spoke to Karna, a
conqueror of enemies, these words suitable for the moment:

«mā vyathāṃ kuru, Rādheya! n' āivaṃ tvayy upapadyate.

ete dravanti rājāno Bhīmasena|bhay'ārđitāḥ;

Duryodhanaś ca saṃmūḍho bhrātr|vyasana|duḥkhitāḥ.

84.10 Duḥśāsanasya rudhire pīyamāne mah"ātmanā,

vyāpanna|cetasas' c' āiva śok'ōpahata|cetasah,

Duryodhanam upāsante parivārya samantataḥ

Kṛpa|prabhṛtayaś c' āite hata|śeṣāḥ sah'ōdarāḥ.

Pāṇḍavā labdha|lakṣās' ca Dhanamjaya|puro|gamāḥ

tvām ev' ābhimukhāḥ sūrā yuddhāya samupāsthitaḥ.

sa tvam, puruṣa|śārdūla, pauraṣeṇa samāsthitaḥ

kṣatra|dharmam puras|kṛtya pratyudyāhi Dhanamjayam!

bhāro hi Dhārtarāṣṭreṇa tvayi sarvaḥ samāhitaḥ;

tam udvaha, mahā|bāho, yathā|śakti yathā|balam!

jaye syād vipulā kīrtir, dhruvaḥ svargaḥ parājaye.

84.15 Vṛṣasenaś ca, Rādheya, saṃkruddhas tanayas tava

tvayi moham samāpanne Pāṇḍavān abhidhāvati.»

etac chrutvā tu vacanam Śalyasy' ā|mita|tejasah,

hṛdi c' āvaśyakaṃ bhāvaṃ cakre yuddhāya su|sthiram.

“Don’t despair, son of Radha! It’s not right for you! Racked with fear of Bhima-sena, the kings flee, and Duryódhana is insensible, traumatized by the evil crime against his brother. Led by Kripa, the remaining warriors and his brothers—their minds deranged and overwhelmed by grief on account of that mighty man drinking Duhshásana’s blood—completely surrounded Duryódhana and sat down at his side. The Pándava champions have achieved their goal and, led by Dhanañ·jaya, have turned towards you and approached for battle. You, tiger of men, must apply yourself with courage and, honoring the warriors’ code, charge out to meet Dhanañ·jaya! Dhrita-rashtra’s son has placed this entire burden on you, mighty-armed man, and you must bear it to the best of your ability and strength! In victory there shall be wide fame and in defeat ever-lasting heaven. Your son Vrisha-sena, furious on account of you becoming demoralized, son of Radha, has attacked the Pándavas.”

After hearing these words from Shalya, whose fiery energy had no limit, Karna decisively made up his mind that battle was inevitable.

tataḥ kruddho Vṛṣaseno 'bhyadhāvad
 avasthitam pramukhe Pāṇḍavam tam
 Vṛk'ōdaram, Kālam iv' āta|daṇḍam,
 gadā|hastam yodhayantam tvadiyān.
 tam abhyadhāvan Nakulaḥ pravīro
 roṣād amitram pratudan pṛṣatkaiḥ
 Karṇasya putram samare prahṛṣtam,
 purā jighāṃsur Maghav" ēva Jambham.
 tato dhvajam sphāṭika|citra|kañcukam
 ciccheda vīro Nakulaḥ kṣureṇa,
 Karṇ'ātmaḥjasy' ēṣv|asanaḥ ca citram
 bhallena jāmbūnada|citra|naddham.

84.20 ath' ānyad ādāya dhanuḥ sa śighram
 Karṇ'ātmaḥj Pāṇḍavam abhyavidhyat
 divyair mah"āstrair Nakulaḥ kṛt'āstro
 Duḥśāsanasy' āpacitiḥ yiyāsuḥ.†
 tataḥ kruddho Nakulas tam mah"ātma
 śarair mah"ōlkā|pratimair avidhyat.†
 divyair astrair abhyavidhyac ca so 'pi
 Karṇasya putro Nakulaḥ kṛt'āstraḥ.
 śar'ābhighātāc ca ruṣā ca, rājan,
 svayā ca bhās" āstra|samīraṇāc ca,
 jajvāla Karṇasya suto 'timātram
 iddho yath" ājy'āhutibhir hut'āśaḥ.
 Karṇasya putro Nakulasya, rājan,
 sarvān asvān akṣiṇod uttam'āstraiḥ,
 Vanāyuljān vai Nakulasya śubhrān
 udagra|gān hema|jāl'āvanaddhān.

Then in rage Vrisha-sena rushed at Wolf-belly Pándava who stood before him fighting your men with club in hand like Time the destroyer wielding his staff. In that battle the hero Nákula rushed at Karna's ecstatic son, furiously running his enemy through with arrows, just as Mághavan had done long ago in his eagerness to kill the demon Jambha. With a razor arrow the hero Nákula next cut to pieces the crystal-speckled cloth banner of Karna's son, and with a broad-headed arrow splintered his bow that was beautifully inlaid with gold.

Yet Karna's son was skilled with his weapons and, grab- 84.20
bing another fast bow in his eagerness to avenge Duhshásana, wounded Nákula with his powerful divine weapons. Mighty Nákula was infuriated and he wounded him with arrows that seemed like massive meteors. And Karna's son, an expert in weapons, also wounded Nákula with his divine weapons. With a rage brought on by blows from arrows and with his own radiance brought on by his hurling of missiles, Karna's son flared up beyond measure, like a fire kindled with offerings of ghee. King, Karna's son destroyed all Nákula's horses with superb missiles—Nákula's beautiful horses with elevated gaits that were covered in golden mail and bred in Vanáyú!

tato hat' |śśvād avaruhya yānād,
 ādāya carm' āmala|rukma|candram,
 ākāśa|saṃkāśam asiṃ pragr̥hya,
 dodhūyamānaḥ khagavac cacāra.
 84.25 tato 'ntarikṣe ca rath' |śśva|nāgaṃ
 ciccheda tūrṇaṃ Nakulaś citra|yodhī;
 te prāpatann asinā gāṃ viśastā,
 yath" śśva|medhe paśavaḥ śamitrā.
 dvi|sāhasrāḥ pātītā yuddha|śśauṇḍā,
 nānā|deśyāḥ, su|bhṛtāḥ, satya|saṃdhāḥ
 ekena śīghraṃ Nakulena kṛttāḥ
 jay' |ēpsun" ān|uttama|candan' |āṅgāḥ.
 tam āpatantaṃ Nakulaṃ so 'bhipatya
 samantataḥ sāyakaiḥ pratyavidhyat.
 sa tudyamāno Nakulaḥ pṛṣatkair
 vivyādha vīraṃ. sa cukopa viddhaḥ.
 mahā|bhaye rakṣyamāṇo mah" |ātmā
 bhrātrā Bhīmen' ākarot tatra bhīmam.
 taṃ Karṇa|putro vyadhamantam ekaṃ
 nar' |śśva|mātaṅga|rathān an|ekān
 krīḍantaṃ aṣṭā|daśabhiḥ pṛṣatkair
 vivyādha vīraṃ Nakulaṃ su|roṣaḥ.
 sa tena viddho 'tibhṛśaṃ tarasvī
 mah" |āhave Vṛṣasenena, rājan,
 kruddhena dhāvan samare jīghāṃsuḥ
 Karṇ' |ātmajaṃ Pāṇḍu|suto nṛ|vīraḥ.
 84.30 vitatya pakṣau sahasā patantaṃ
 śyenaṃ yath" āiv' āmiṣa|lubdham ājau,
 avākīrad Vṛṣasenas tatas taṃ
 śitaiḥ śarair Nakulam udāra|vīryam.

With its horses dead he then leaped from his vehicle and, seizing his shield decorated with spotless golden moons and grabbing his sky-like sword, he flew off like a bird, waving them ferociously. And then, employing various martial arts through the air, Nákula quickly cut up chariots, horses and elephants. Dismembered by his sword, they collapsed to the ground like animals in a horse sacrifice cut up by the carver. Two thousand well paid men from various places who were true to their promises, keen for battle and whose bodies were sprinkled with the finest sandal, were single-handedly felled and quickly cut up by Nákula in his hunger for victory. 84.25

As Nákula flew towards him Vrisha-sena ran at him and wounded him all over with arrows. Yet while he was being punished, Nákula wounded that hero with arrows. Wounded, Vrisha-sena boiled with rage. Mighty Nákula terrorized that place while his brother Bhima protected him whenever there was serious danger. Karna's furious son wounded Nákula with eighteen arrows as that hero cavorted about and struck down many men, horses, elephants and chariots on his own.

Though he was horribly wounded by Vrisha-sena in that great battle, king, Pandu's bold son—a hero of a man!—continued furiously running at him in that fight in his eagerness to kill Karna's son. Vrisha-sena then sprayed that man of immense courage with sharp arrows as Nákula flew at him like an eagle spreading its wings and flying over the battlefield in search of prey. Nákula took various paths with his sword, rendering the waves of Vrisha-sena's arrows ineffective. 84.30

sa tān moghāṃs tasya kurvañ śar'āughāṃś
 cacāra mārgān Nakulaś citra|rūpān.
 ath' āsya tūrṇaṃ carato, nar'ēndra,
 khadgena citraṃ Nakulasya tasya
 mah"ēṣubhir vyadhamat Karṇa|putro
 mah"āhave carma sahasra|tāram.
 taṃ c' āyaṣaṃ, niśitaṃ tikṣṇa|dhāram,
 vikośam, ugraṃ, guru|bhāra|sāham,
 dviṣac|charīr'ānta|karaṃ, su|ghoram
 ādhunvataḥ, sarpam iv' ôgra|rūpam,
 kṣipraṃ śaraiḥ ṣaḍbhir amitra|sāhaś
 cakarta khadgaṃ niśitaiḥ su|vegaiḥ,
 punaś ca dīptair niśitaiḥ pṛṣatkaiḥ
 stan'āntare gādham ath' ābhyavidhyat.
 kṛtvā tu tad duṣ|karam ārya|juṣṭaṃ
 anyair naraiḥ karma raṇe mah"ātmā
 yayau rathaṃ Bhīmasenasya, rājañ,
 śar'ābhitapto Nakulas tvarāvān.

84.35 sa Bhīmasenasya rathaṃ hat'āśvo
 Mādri|sutaḥ Karṇa|sut'ābhitaptaḥ
 āpupluve, siṃha iv' ācal'āgraṃ,
 saṃprekṣyamāṇasya Dhanamjayasya.

With huge arrows Karna's son destroyed Nákula's shield that was covered in a thousand stars as he speedily and spectacularly careered onwards with his sword in hand. And as Nákula waved his keen and formidable unsheathed sword, a terrifying weapon capable of immense tasks that could destroy the bodies of enemies like a fearsome snake, that vanquisher of enemies quickly cut down that sword with six sharp and fast shafts and, furthermore, badly wounded him in the center of the chest with sharp blazing arrows.

After performing such deeds that were admired by noble people and which were difficult for other men, king, in the battle mighty Nákula, seared by arrows, hastily went to Bhima-sena's chariot. His horses dead and seared by Karna's 84.35 son, like a lion on to the summit of a mountain Madri's son sprang into Bhima-sena's chariot while Dhanañ-jaya was watching.

tataḥ kruddho Vṛṣaseno mah’|ātmā
 vavaṛṣa tāv iṣu|jālena vīraḥ,
 mahā|rathāv eka|rathe sametau
 śaraiḥ prabhindann iva Pāṇḍaveyau.
 tasmin rathe nihate Pāṇḍavasya
 kṣipraṃ ca khaḍge viśikhair nikṛtte,
 anye ca saṃhatya Kuru|pravīrās
 tato nyaghnañ śara|varṣair upetya.
 tau Pāṇḍaveyau paritaḥ sametān,
 saṃhūyamānāv iva havya|vāhau,
 Bhīm’|Ārjunau Vṛṣasenāya kruddhau
 vavaṛṣatuḥ śara|varṣaṃ su|ghoram.
 ath’ ābravīn Mārutiḥ Phalgunam ca,
 «paśyasv’ āinaṃ Nakulaṃ piḍyamānam!
 ayaṃ ca no bād hate Karṇa|putras,
 tasmād bhavān pratyupayātu Kārṇim!»

84.40 sa tan niśamy’ āiva vacaḥ Kirītī
 rathaṃ samāsādya Vṛk’|ōdarasya,
 ath’ ābravīn Nakulo vikṣya vīram
 upāgataṃ, «śātaya śīghram enam!»
 ity evaṃ uktaḥ sahasā Kirītī
 bhrātrā samakṣaṃ Nakulena saṃkhye,
 kapi|dhvajam Keśava|saṃgrhītam
 praiśīd udagro Vṛṣasenāya vāham.

Vrisha-sena was then furious and with a spread of arrows that mighty hero rained down on both of them and almost ran through each Pándava with shafts as those mighty warriors huddled together on the one chariot. When the Pándava's chariot had been destroyed and the sword quickly cut to pieces by arrows, other Kuru heroes joined together and then attacked, striking them with showers of arrows. Like a pair of sacrificial fires being fueled with oblations, the two furious Pándavas Bhima and Árjuna rained a dreadful shower of arrows down on Vrisha-sena and all over those who had joined together there.

The son of the Wind-god then said to Phálguna, “Look! Nákula's being hard pressed! Karna's son hampers us, so you'll have to counterattack Karna's boy!” When he heard 84.40 these words, the Wearer of the crown drew near Wolf-belly's chariot. Then Nákula saw that hero approach and said, “Kill him quickly!”

Spoken to like this in the battle by his brother Nákula who stood before him, the fierce Wearer of the crown urged on his monkey-bannered vehicle steered by Késhava towards Vrisha-sena.

SAMJAYA uvāca:

85.1 NAKULAM ATHA viditvā chinna|bāṇāsan' |âsim,
 viratham, ari|śar' |ārtam, Karṇa|putr' |âstra|bhagnam,
 pavana|dhuta|patākā, hrādino, valgit' |âśvā,
 vara|puruṣa|niyuktās te rathāḥ śīghram īyuh,
 Drupada|suta|variṣṭhāḥ pañca, Śaineya|ṣaṣṭhā,
 Drupada|duhitṛ|putrāḥ pañca c' âmitra|sāhāḥ,
 dvirada|ratha|nar' |âśvān sūdayantas tvadīyān
 bhujaga|pati|nikāśair mārṅaṇair ātta|śastrāḥ.
 atha tava ratha|mukhyās tān pratīyus tvaranto
 Kṛpa|Hṛdika|suta ca, Drauṇi|Duryodhanau ca,
 Śakuni|suta|Vṛkās ca, Krātha|Devāvṛdhau ca
 dvirada|jalada|ghoṣaiḥ syandanaiḥ kārmukaiś ca.
 tava, nṛpa, rathi|vīrās† tān daś' |âikaṃ ca vīrān,
 nṛ|vara, śara|var' |âgryais† tāḍayanto 'bhyarundhan.
 nava|jalada|savarṇair hastibhis tān udīyur
 giri|śikhara|nikāśair bhīma|vegaiḥ Kulindāḥ.

ⁱ Dráupadi, who had one son to each of the five Pándavas

SÁÑJAYA said:

THEN WHEN THEY realized that Nákula had been injured 85.1
 by his foe's arrows, stripped of his chariot, routed by the
 weapons of Karna's son and that his bow and sword had
 been splintered, raucous chariots driven by the finest men
 quickly arrived with their horses galloping and their flags
 buffeted by the wind. The five superb sons of Drúpada, a
 sixth in Shini's grandson, and the five enemy conquering
 sons of Drúpada's daughterⁱ wielded their weapons and de-
 stroyed your elephants, chariots, men and horses with ar-
 rows that were like snake-lords.

Then on their elephants and chariots that thundered
 like clouds your foremost warriors Kripa, Hródika's son,
 Drona's son, Duryódhana, Shákuni's son, Vrika, Kratha
 and Deváridha* quickly went out to meet them with their
 bows. Then, king, your heroic chariot-warriors repulsed all
 eleven heroes, finest of men, pounding them with the very
 finest arrows. But Kulíndas rose up against them on ele-
 phants of fearsome speed that had the color of new clouds
 and that seemed like the peaks of mountains.

- 85.5 su|kalpitā Haimavatā mad’|ôtkatā
 ran’|âbhikāmaiḥ kṛtibhiḥ samāsthitāḥ
 suvarṇa|jālair vitatā babhur gajās
 tathā, yathā khe jala|dāḥ sa|vidyutaḥ.
 Kulinda|putro daśabhir mah’|âyasaiḥ
 Kṛpaṃ sa|sūt’|âśvam apīḍayad bhṛṣam.
 tataḥ Śaradvat|suta|sāyakair hataḥ
 saḥ âiva nāgena papāta bhūtale.
 Kulinda|putr’|âvara|jas tu tomarair
 divākar’|âṃsu|pratimair ayas|mayaiḥ
 rathaṃ ca vikṣobhya nanāda; nardatas
 tato `sya Gāndhāra|patiḥ śiro `harat.
 tataḥ Kulindeṣu hateṣu teṣv atha
 prahr̥ṣṭa|rūpās tava te mahā|rathāḥ
 bhṛṣam pradadhmur lavaṇ’|âmbu|saṃbhavān,
 parāṃś ca bāṇ’|âsana|pāṇayo `bhyayuh.
 ath’ âbhavad yuddham at’|îva dāruṇam
 punaḥ Kurūṇām saha Pāṇḍu|Śr̥ṇjayaiḥ
 śar’|âsi|śakty|r̥ṣṭi|gadā|paraśvadhair
 nar’|âśva|nāg’|âsu|haraṃ bhṛṣ’|ākulam.
 85.10 rath’|âśva|mātaṅga|padātibhis tataḥ
 parasparaṃ viprahat’ âpatan†* kṣitau,
 yathā sa|vidyut|stanitā balāhakāḥ
 samāhatā digbhya iv’ ôgra|mārutaiḥ.

ⁱ Shākuni

Mounted by skilled men keen for a fight, those ruttish 85.5
 and well-equipped Himalayan elephants encased in golden
 mail were as dazzling as clouds in the sky filled with light-
 ning. A Kulínda prince badly hurt Kripa and his charioteer
 and horses with ten huge iron weapons. Then Sharádvat's
 son struck him with arrows and he collapsed to the ground
 with his elephant. But a younger brother of the Kulínda
 prince rocked his chariot with lances made of iron that were
 like rays of the sun and then roared. But while he was roar-
 ing, the lord of Gandháraⁱ then lopped off his head. Once
 these Kulíndas were killed, those mighty warriors of yours
 were in rapture and blew their ocean-born conches and then
 attacked their enemies with bows in hand.

Again there was a terribly violent and appallingly chaotic
 battle between the Kurus and the Pándavas and Srínjayas
 which stole the lives of men, horses and elephants with ar-
 rows, swords, spears, javelins, clubs and axes. They struck 85.10
 one another with their chariots, horses, elephants and foot-
 soldiers and collapsed to the ground like clouds filled with
 thunder and lightning struck by formidable winds from ev-
 ery direction.

tataḥ Śatānīka|hatān† mahā|gajāṃs,
 tathā rathān, patti|gaṇāṃś ca tān bahūn;
 jaghāna Bhojas tu hayān; ath' āpatan
 kṣanād viśastāḥ Kṛtavarmaṇaḥ śaraiḥ.
 ath' āpare Drauṇi|hatā mahā|dvipās
 trayāḥ sa|sarv'āyudha|yodha|ketanāḥ
 nipetur urvyāṃ vyasavo nipātītās
 tathā, yathā vajra|hatā mah"ācalāḥ.
 Kulinda|rāj'āvara|jād anantaraḥ
 stan'āntare patri|varair atāḍayat
 tav' ātma|jaṃ; tasya tav' ātma|jaḥ śaraiḥ
 śitaiḥ śarīraṃ vyahanad, dvipaṃ ca tam.
 sa nāga|rājaḥ saha rāja|sūnunā
 papāta, raktaṃ bahu sarvataḥ kṣaran,
 Mahendra|vajra|prahato 'mbud'āgame
 yathā jalaṃ gairika|parvatas, tathā.
 85.15 Kulinda|putra|prahito 'paro dvipaḥ
 Krāthaṃ sa|sūt'āśva|rathaṃ vyapothayat;
 tato 'patat Krātha|śar'ābhidhāvitaḥ
 sah'ēśvaro, vajra|hato yathā giriḥ.
 rathī dvipa|sthena hato 'patac charaiḥ
 Krāth'ādhipaḥ parvata|jena dur|jayaḥ
 sa|vāji|sūt'ēṣv|asana|dhvajas tathā,
 yathā mahā|vāta|hato mahā|drumaḥ.

Next many mighty elephants, chariots and divisions of foot-soldiers were slain by Shataníka.* But the Bhoja Kritavarman then killed his horses and they immediately collapsed, dismembered by his arrows. Then three other massive elephants with all their weapons, warriors and flags were struck by Drona's son and fell to the ground lifeless like huge mountains struck by thunderbolts.

The next of kin to the Kulínda king's younger brother wounded your son in the center of the chest with fine arrows. With his sharp arrows, your son struck his body and his elephant. That king of elephants collapsed together with the prince, streaming all over with copious amounts of blood like a red ocher mountain struck by mighty Indra's thunderbolts and streaming water under a newly arrived cloud.

Another elephant urged on by a Kulínda prince crushed 85.15
Kratha along with his charioteer, horses and chariot. Then along with its lord it was assailed by Kratha's arrows and collapsed like a mountain struck by a thunderbolt. That indomitable chariot-warrior the lord of the Krathas had been struck with arrows by that mountain-born warrior straddling his elephant and he collapsed with his horses, charioteer, bow and banners, like a huge tree swept aside by a powerful wind.

Vṛko dvipa|sthamaṅ giri|rāja|vāsinamaṅ
 bhṛṣamaṅ śarair dvādaśabhiḥ parābhinat.
 tato Vṛkamaṅ s'āśva|rathamaṅ mahā|dvipo
 drutamaṅ caturbhiś caranaṅ vyapothayat.
 sa nāga|rājaḥ sa|niyanṛko 'patat
 tathā hato Babhru|sut'êṣubhir bhṛṣamaṅ.
 sa c' āpi Devāvṛdha|sūnur arditah
 papāta nunnah Sahadeva|sūnunā.
 viṣāṅa|gātr'āvara|yodha|pātinā
 gajena hantumaṅ Śakuniṅ Kulinda|jah
 jagāma vegena bhṛṣ' ārdayaṅś ca tamaṅ.
 tato 'sya Gāndhāra|patiḥ śiro 'harat.
 85.20 tataḥ Śātānīka|hatā mahā|gajā,
 hayā, rathāḥ, patti|gaṅś ca tāvakāḥ,
 Suparṇa|vāta|prahatā yath" ōragās,
 tathā gatā gām vivaśā vicūrṇitah.
 tato 'bhyavidhyad bahubhiḥ śitaiḥ śaraiḥ
 Kaliṅga|putro Nakul'ātma|jamaṅ smayan.
 tato 'sya kopād vicakarta Nākuliḥ
 śiraḥ kṣureṅ' āmbuja|saṅnibh'ānanam.
 tataḥ Śātānīkam avidhyad āyasais
 tribhiḥ śitaiḥ Karṇa|suto, 'rjunaṅ tribhiḥ,
 tribhiś ca Bhīmaṅ, Nakulaṅ ca saptabhir,
 Janārdanaṅ dvādaśabhiś ca sāyakaiḥ.
 tad asya karm' ātīmanuṣya|karmaṅah
 samīkṣya hr̥ṣṭāḥ Kuravo 'bhyapūjayan;
 parākrama|jñās tu Dhanamaṅjayasya ye,
 «huto 'yam agnāv! iti» tamaṅ tu menire.

ⁱ Shruta-karman ⁱⁱ Babhru

With twelve arrows Vrika brutally penetrated that elephant riding warrior who lived on the king of mountains. But then that mighty elephant quickly crushed Vrika and his horses and chariot with all four of his feet. Brutally struck by arrows from Babhru's son that king of elephants collapsed with its mahout. But, wounded and driven back by Saha-deva's son,ⁱ Devávriddha's sonⁱⁱ fell.

A Kulínda prince sped towards Shákuni to kill him, brutally assaulting him with his elephant that could fell warriors with its tusks or its limbs. The lord of Gandhára then removed his head.

Then mighty elephants, horses, chariots and hordes of 85.20
your foot-soldiers were struck down by Shataníka and, like snakes swept aside by the wind of Supárna's wings, fell to the ground helpless and crushed. Next a grinning Kalínga prince wounded Nákula's son with many sharp arrows. With a razor arrow Nákula's boy then furiously tore off his head with its lotus-like mouth.

Karna's son then pummeled Shataníka with three iron arrows, Árjuna with three arrows, Bhima with three, Nákula with seven and Janárdana with twelve. As they witnessed this deed of that man of superhuman deeds, the Kurus were exhilarated and paid tribute to him. But those who knew of Dhanañ-jaya's strength reckoned he was an offering for a sacrificial fire!



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“Karna,” Book Eight of the MAHA-BHÁRATA, ends as it began with Karna’s death. In this key second volume much of the quarrel provoked during the dicing comes full circle, and much of the slight suffered by the five Pándava brothers – and especially by Dráupadi, their common wife – is avenged.

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