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# Maha·bhárata

Book Seven

Drona

Volume Two



Edited and Translated by  
**VAUGHAN PILIKIAN**

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY PRESS & JJC FOUNDATION

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DHṚTARĀṢṬRA uvāca:

105.1 DHVAJĀN BAHU|vidh' |ākārān bhrājamānān atisriyā  
Pārthānām māmakānām ca tām mam' ācakṣya Saṃjaya.

SAMJAYA uvāca:

dhvajān bahu|vidh' |ākārān śṛṇu teṣām mah" |ātmanām  
rūpato varṇataś c' āiva nāmataś ca nibodha me.

teṣām tu ratha|mukhyānām ratheṣu vividhā dhvajāḥ  
pratyadṛśyanta rāj' |ēndra jvalitā iva pāvakāḥ.

kāñcanāḥ kāñcan' |āpīḍāḥ kāñcana|srag|alamkṛtāḥ  
kāñcanān' īva śṛṅgāṇi kāñcanasya mahā|gireḥ.

105.5 an|eka|varṇā vividhā dhvajāḥ parama|śobhanāḥ  
te dhvajāḥ saṃvṛtās teṣām patākābhiḥ samantataḥ.  
nānā|varṇa|virāgābhiḥ śuśubhuḥ sarvato vṛtāḥ  
patākāś ca tatas tās tu śvasanena samīritāḥ.

nṛtyamānā vyadṛśyanta raṅga|madhye vilāsikāḥ  
Indr' |āyudha|sa|varṇ' |ābhāḥ patākā Bharata' |rṣabha.  
dodhūyamānā rathinām śobhayanti mahā|rathān  
siṃha|lāṅgūlam ugr' |āsyam dhvajam vānara|lakṣaṇam

Dhanaṃjayasya saṃgrāme pratyadṛśyata bhairavam.  
sa vānara|varo, rājan, patākābhir alamkṛtāḥ

105.10 trāsayām āsa tat sainyaṃ dhvajo Gāṇḍīva|dhanvanaḥ.

tath" āiva siṃha|lāṅgūlam Droṇa|putrasya Bhārata  
dhvaj' |āgram samapaśyāma bāla|sūrya|sama|prabham,  
kāñcanam pavan' |ōddhūtam Śakra|dhvaja|sama|prabham  
nandanam Kaurav' |ēndrānām

Drauṇer lakṣma samucchritam.

hasti|kakṣyā punar haimī

babhūv' Ādhirather dhvajāḥ

DHRITA·RASHTRA spoke:

I CAN ALMOST see the bright and various totems of Pritha's children and my own flashing against the sky. Describe them to me Sánjaya. 105.1

SÁNJAYA spoke:

Bright and various those totems were, and mighty the men that bore them. Listen now and hear their names shapes and colours.

O king of kings like flickering flame the different blazes danced above the chariots of the champions. The poles were of gold and they were bound in gold bindings and hung with gold chains like peaks of gold on a golden mountain. Each held an effigy that coruscated with a thousand colours, blending and merging and darkening and brightening as it moved in the wind. O bull of the Bharatas these things glowed in all the colours of the rainbow and seemed to dance upon the painted field beneath them. The tail of a lion, a pair of fearsome jaws, the effigy of the monkey: they swayed in the breeze to sign the cars and the warriors that rode within them. 105.5

O king it was above the head of Dhanan-jaya that the shape of the monkey so fine and fearful trailed its pennants. As sure as Dhanan-jaya's blaze sent panic through the ranks so too o Bhárata did the lion's tail that marked Drona's son. We saw it shake atop his pole bright as a rainbow and rendered in shades of lapis lazuli and gold. Hoisted high Drauni's totem thrilled the hearts of the Káurava heroes, as did the golden tiger on Ádhirathi's pole for o majesty his goldwrought standard and chainbound staff seemed to 105.10



- āhave khaṃ mahā|rāja dadṛṣe pūrayann iva.  
 patākā kāñcanī sragvī dhvajah Karnasya samyuge  
 nr̥tyat' īva rath' |ōpasthe śvasanena samīritaḥ.  
 ācāryasya tu Pāṇḍūnām brāhmaṇasya tapasvinaḥ  
 105.15 go|vr̥ṣo Gautamasy' āsīt Kṛpasya su|pariṣkṛtaḥ.  
 sa tena bhr̥jate rājan go|vr̥ṣeṇa mahā|rathaḥ  
 tri|pura|ghna|ratho yadvad go|vr̥ṣeṇa virājataḥ.  
 mayūro Vṛṣasenasya kāñcano maṇi|ratinavān  
 vyāhariṣyann iv' ātiṣṭhat sen" |āgram upaśobhayan.  
 tena tasya ratho bhāti mayūreṇa mah" |ātmanaḥ,  
 yathā Skandasya rāj' |ēndra mayūreṇa virājataḥ.  
 Madra|rājasya Śalyasya dhvaj' |āgre 'gni|śikhām iva  
 sauvarṇīm pratipaśyāma sītām a|pratimām śubhām.  
 sā sītā bhr̥jate tasya ratham āsthāya mārīṣa,  
 sarva|bija|virūḍh" ēva yathā sītā śriyā vṛtā.  
 105.20 varāhaḥ Sindhu|rājasya rājato 'bhivirājate  
 dhvaj' |āgre 'lohit' |ārka' |ābhho hema|jāla|pariṣkṛtaḥ.  
 śuśubhe ketunā tena rājatena Jayadrathaḥ  
 yathā dev' |āsura yuddhe purā Pūṣā sma śobhate.  
 Saumadatteḥ punar yūpo yajña|śīlasya dhīmataḥ  
 dhvajah sūrya iv' ābhāti somaś c' ātra pradṛśyate.  
 sa yūpaḥ kāñcano, rājan, Saumadatter virājate  
 rāja|sūye makha|śreṣṭhe yathā yūpaḥ samucchritaḥ.  
 Śalasya tu mahā|rāja rājato dvi|rado mahān  
 ketuḥ kāñcana|citr' |āṅgair mayūrair upaśobhitaḥ.  
 105.25 sa ketuḥ śobhayām āsa sainyaṃ te Bharata' |rṣabha  
 yathā śveto mahā|nāgo deva|rāja|camūṃ tathā.  
 nāgo maṇi|mayo rājño dhvajah kanaka|saṃvṛtaḥ  
 kiṅkiṇi|śata|saṃhrādo bhr̥jamaś citro rath' |ōttame.  
 vyabhr̥jata bhr̥ṣaṃ rājan putras tava viśaṃ pate

fill the sky above the fray. The finest hand had made the calf that in the breeze seemed to dance atop the pole of the Pandu teacher, the fiery priest Kripa son of Gótama. With that calf he rode resplendent as once had the Destroyer of the Triple City with the selfsame beast upon his car. 105.15

A golden peacock encrusted with jewels and gemstones was raised tall and lustrous above the van atop Vrisha-sena's pole, and o king the hero's car shone with the totem as once Skanda's had shone with the same. The pole of Shalya the Madra king seemed crested in flame for we saw there the slash of the wholesome furrow that none can mistake, and o father planted upon his car it was wondrous as the cleft that sown with care will raise up any seed. Strung with nets of gold the sign of the boar was a silver flash the colour of a pale bloodless sun that marked the Sindhu king. Jayad-ratha's car shone with its silver totem as Pushan's car had shone when the demons met the gods in war. Saumadátti was a wise man wellversed in ritual and his sign was the sacrificial stake. Though the colour of the moon it shone like the sun. O king the stake on Saumadátti's car flashed wondrous as any raised when a king is anointed for his throne. 105.20

O majesty a great elephant of silver graced Shala's chariot and it was ringed in peacocks fashioned from glittering gold. His totem shone above us o bull of the Bharatas like the great white serpent above the battalion of heaven's king. Above our own king's chariot flashed the snake made of jewels and it was decorated in gold and jangled with a circlet of a hundred little bells. O king and lord of this realm your son the bull of the Kurus blazed in the fray with that great effigy above him. Thus were the nine signs our band 105.25

dhvajena mahatā samkhye Kurūṇām ṛṣabhas tadā.  
 nav' āite tava vāhinyām ucchritāḥ parama|dhvajāḥ  
 vyadīpayams te pṛtanām yug'|ānt'|āditya|samnibhāḥ.  
 daśamas tv Arjunasy' āsīd eka eva mahā|kapiḥ  
 adīpyat' Ârjuno yena Himavān iva vahninā.

- 105.30 tataś citrāṇi śubhrāṇi su|mahānti mahā|rathāḥ  
 kārmukāṇy ādadus tūrṇam Arjun'|ārthe paraṃ|tapāḥ.  
 tath" āiva dhanur āyacchat Pārthaḥ śatru|vināśanaḥ  
 Gāṇḍīvaṃ divya|karmā tad rājan dur|mantrite tava.  
 tav' āparādhād rājāno nihatā bahudhā yudhi  
 nānā|digbhyaḥ samāhūtāḥ sa|hayāḥ sa|ratha|dvipāḥ.  
 teṣām āsīd vyatikṣepo garjatām itar'|êtaram  
 Duryodhana| mukhānām ca Pāṇḍūnām ṛṣabhasya ca.  
 tatr' ādbhutaṃ paraṃ cakre Kaunteyaḥ Kṛṣṇa|sārathiḥ  
 yad eko bahubhiḥ sārdhaṃ samāgacchad a|bhītavat.  
 105.35 aśobhata mahā|bāhur Gāṇḍīvaṃ vikṣipan dhanuḥ  
 jigīṣus tān nara|vyāghrān jighāmsuś ca Jayadratham.  
 tatr' Ârjuno nara|vyāghraḥ śarair muktaiḥ sahasraśaḥ  
 adṛśyāms tāvakān yodhān pracakre śatru|tāpanaḥ.  
 tatas te 'pi nara|vyāghrāḥ Pārthaṃ sarve mahā|rathāḥ  
 a|dṛśyaṃ samare cakruḥ sāyak'|āughaiḥ samantataḥ.  
 saṃvṛte nara|siṃhais tu Kurūṇām ṛṣabhe 'rjune  
 mahān āsīt samuddhūtas tasya sainyaḥ niḥsvanaḥ.

DHṚTARĀṢṬRA uvāca:

- 106.1 ARJUNE SAINDHAVAM prāpte Bhāradvājena saṃvṛtāḥ  
 Pāñcālāḥ Kurubhiḥ sārdhaṃ kim akurvata, Saṃjaya?

had raised and they burned in the host like suns at the end of time. And the tenth and final was ÁRJUNA's great monkey. It flashed like fire set in mountain snow.

Come to burn their foe away the great fighters all drew back their vast and arcing bows and aimed at ÁRJUNA. Partha fabled in heaven also drew back his bow for it was with Gandíva that he would take revenge upon the wrongs o king you had done him. This war has seen the end of dynasties. So many came from across the earth with their horses and elephants and chariots and they have all have fallen in the name of your crime. 105.30

In sudden commotion the Pandu bull and Duryódhana's best called aloud to each other, and then with Krishna at his side the son of Kunti rode out alone against their group. It was impossible to believe but he showed no fear. With Gandíva taut in his strong arms he blazed on eager to trample the tigers who stood against him and keen to bring Jayad-ratha down. ÁRJUNA the champion and furnace of foes let fly a thousand arrows and he hid his opponents beneath them. All the great tigers loosed their own bows and they too hid Partha in clouds of their darts. And as ÁRJUNA the bull vanished beneath the Kurus' wild attack a great clamour rose from the ranks of our host. 105.35

DHRITA·RASHTRA spoke:

SO WHILE ÁRJUNA came ever closer to Sáindhava how were the Panchálas faring against the Kurus? Had Bharadvája overcome them, Sánjaya? 106.1

SAMJAYA uvāca:

- apar'lahṇe, mahā|rāja, saṃgrāme loma|harṣaṇe  
 Pāñcālānāṃ Kurūṇāṃ ca Droṇa|dyūtam avartata.  
 Pāñcālā hi jighāṃsanto Droṇaṃ saṃhr̥ṣṭa|cetasah  
 abhyamuñcanta garjantaḥ śara|varṣāṇi māriṣa.  
 tatas tu tumulas teṣāṃ saṃgrāmo 'vartat' ādbhutaḥ  
 Pāñcālānāṃ Kurūṇāṃ ca ghorō dev'āsur'ōpamaḥ.  
 106.5 sarve Droṇa|rathaṃ prāpya Pāñcālāḥ Pāñdavaiḥ saha  
 tad anikaṃ bibhitsuṃ mah'āstrāṇi vyadarśayan.  
 Droṇasya ratha|paryantaṃ rathino ratham āsthitāḥ  
 kampayanto 'bhyavartanta vegam āsthāya madhyamam.  
 tam abhyagād Br̥hatkṣatraḥ Kekayānāṃ mahā|rathaḥ  
 pravapan niśitān bāṇān Mahendr'āsāni|saṃnibhān.  
 taṃ tu pratyudyayau śighraṃ Kṣemadhūrtir mahā|yaśāḥ  
 vimuñcan niśitān bāṇān śataśo 'tha sahasraśaḥ.  
 Dhṛṣṭaketuś ca Cedīnāṃ ṛṣabho 'tibal'ōditaḥ  
 tvarito 'bhyadravad Droṇaṃ Mahendra iva Śambaram.  
 106.10 tam āpatantaṃ sahasā vyādit'āśyam iv' āntakam  
 vira|dhanvā mah'ēṣv'āsas tvaramāṇaḥ samabhyayāt.  
 Yudhiṣṭhiraṃ mahā|rājaṃ jigīṣuṃ samavasthitam  
 sah'ānikam tato Droṇo nyavārayata vīryavān.  
 Nakulaṃ kuśalaṃ yuddhe parākrāntaṃ parākramī  
 abhyagacchat samāyāntaṃ Vikarṇas te sutaḥ prabho.  
 Sahadevaṃ tath' āyāntaṃ Durmukhaḥ śatru|karśanaḥ  
 śarair an|eka|śahasraiḥ samavākirad āsu|gaiḥ.  
 Sātyakim tu nara|vyāghraṃ Vyāghradattas tv avārayat  
 śaraiḥ su|niśitais tikṣṇaiḥ kampayan vai muhur muhuḥ.  
 106.15 Draupadeyān nara|vyāghrān muñcataḥ sāyak'ōttamān  
 saṃrabdhān rathinaḥ śreṣṭhān Saumadattir avārayat.  
 Bhīmasenaṃ tadā kruddhaṃ bhīma|rūpo bhayānakah

SÁNJAYA spoke:

O majesty. The sun sank lower and the fighting grew crueller as the Panchálas and Kurus fought a contest for Drona. O father the Panchálas were mad for Drona's blood and they hollered and sent up arrows in storms. The battle when Panchála met Kuru was full of noise and splendour, and awesome as any that demon or god had ever fought.

The Panchálas and Pándavas pressed on for Drona with quarrels in their hands and rancour in their hearts. As their chariots shook the earth and rolled on steadily towards Drona's car, Brihat-kshatra champion of the Kékayas swept ahead strewing about him arrows sharp as the Great God's lightning. Against him fabled Kshema-dhurtī rode out and sent up a hundred then a thousand shafts before him. The vaunting bull of the Chedis Dhrishta-ketu rushed next at Drona like Mahéndra at Shámbara, and as his quarry careered like widemawed Death across the plain the great archer brandished his heavy bow and made to cut across his track. But mighty Drona wheeled back around and headed for where the great king Yudhi-shthira stood bold and stern among his men. 106.5  
106.10

O lord your son Vikárna raced off to match Nákula's warcraft blow for blow while Dúrmukha who grinds his foes sprinkled Saha-deva's moving car with a thousand quick-flying shafts. Vyaghra-datta rode at Sátyaki, tiger at tiger, pouring tracts of razorsharp darts upon him. Saumadátti came to meet the wild beasts born to Dráupadi as they rode through the fray, and they sprayed their fine darts upon him as he came near their high cars. Rishya-shringa's bold, brutal and fearsome son cut across the fierce path of Bhima. 106.15

pratyavārayad āyāntam Ārṣyaśṅgir mahā|rathaḥ.  
tayoh samabhadra yuddham nara|rākṣasayor mṛdhe  
yādṛg eva purā vṛttam Rāma|Rāvaṇayor nṛpa.

tato Yudhiṣṭhiro Droṇam navatyā nata|parvaṇam  
ājaghne Bharata|śreṣṭhaḥ sarva|marmasu Bhārata.  
tam Droṇaḥ pañca|viṃśatyā nijaghāna stan'āntare  
roṣito Bharata|śreṣṭha Kaunteyena yaśasvinā.

106.20 bhūya eva tu viṃśatyā sāyakānām samācinot  
s'āśva|sūta|dhvajam Droṇaḥ paśyatām sarva|dhanvinām.  
tān śarān Droṇa|muktāms tu śara|varṣeṇa Pāṇḍavaḥ  
avārayata dharm'ātmā darśayan pāṇi|lāghavam.

tato Droṇo bhṛśam kruddho dharmarājasya saṃyuge  
ciccheda samare dhanvī dhanus tasya mah"ātmanaḥ.  
ath' ānam chinna|dhanvānam tvaramāṇo mahā|rathaḥ  
śarair an|eka|sāhasraiḥ pūrayām āsa sarvataḥ.

106.25 ke cic c' ānam amanyanta tath" āiva vi|mukhī|kṛtam,  
hato rāj" ēti rāj'ēndra brāhmaṇena mah"ātmanā.  
a|drśyam vīkṣya rājānam Bhāradvājasya sāyakaiḥ  
sarva|bhūtāny amanyanta hatam eva Yudhiṣṭhiram.

sa kṛcchram paramam prāpto dharmarājo Yudhiṣṭhiraḥ,  
tyaktvā tat kārmukam chinnaḥ Bhāradvājena saṃyuge  
ādade 'nyad dhanur divyam bhāsvaraḥ vegavattaram.  
tatas tān sāyakāms tatra Droṇa|nunnān sahasraśaḥ  
ciccheda samare vīras. tad adbhutam iv' ābhavat.  
chittvā tu tān śarān rājan krodha|saṃrakta|locanaḥ  
śaktim jagrāha samare girīṇām api dāraṇīm.  
svarṇa|daṇḍam mahā|ghoraḥ aṣṭa|ghaṇṭam bhay'āvahām  
samutkṣipya ca tam hr̥ṣṭo nanāda balavad balī,  
nādena sarva|bhūtāni trāsayann iva Bhārata.

sena, and like Rama and Ravana in a time now gone man clashed against demon.

O Bhárata it was Yudhi-shthira the finest of your line who was the first to strike. With nine knotless shafts he found the gaps in Drona's armour, before Drona struck him back in the chest with twentyfive. O best of the Bharatas Kunti's fabled son had raised Drona's ire. We all watched as he dropped another twenty of his darts on Yudhi-shthira's horses, flags and driver, but Pandu's good son showed us how light his fingers were as with a volley of his own he parried the arrows from Drona's bow. Drona's choler burst forth and he lifted his bow and broke the weapon that the righteous king held in his hands and as the great man stood there holding its stumps Drona poured upon him a fresh slew of darts. Yudhi-shthira vanished in Bharadvája's onslaught and everyone thought the king dead. O majesty some even thought they saw his head fly from his shoulders, struck away by the great priest's hand. 106.20

Yet even as calamity threatened the righteous king, he dropped the bow Bharadvája had broken and picked up another spryer still and bright and holy as the sky. Then with miraculous force Yudhi-shthira cut down the thousand arrows that Drona had launched, and o lord as they fell about him his eyes burned a ferocious red. He grabbed a spear fit to cut stone. Its haft was of gold and its dreadful tip bristled with eight prongs and he hefted it and with a giddy cry that made us all flinch o Bhárata he let it go. The spear flew from the righteous king's hand across the battlefield and to see it fly we pitied poor Drona, for with the force 106.25 106.30