

"Child is the father of man, Shape the child from the very beginning"

Vedic Arts

dedication to
promote India's ancient Wisdom through

**CHILDREN'S
BOOK
WORLD**

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The Great Battle of MAHA BHARAT ③

STORY MURAL



IN THE MIDST OF THE BATTLE

(For more details, refer to Bhagavad-gita as it is and other books of His Divine Grace: A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada)

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Short Story

The incident that took place on the ninth day of the battle of Mahabharat is depicted in the drawing over leaf. After the day's battle, at the dusk, Duryodhana was closeted with the grandsire Bhishma. He gave vent to his bitter feelings of disappointment over the way the battle was going on, "The battle has been going against us everyday. Our formations are broken and our warriors are being slain in large numbers. You are looking on doing nothing." He uttered words which were like sharp spears which pained the grandsire greatly but the later was patient and said sadly :

" Like ghee on the sacrifice of fire I am pouring my life out for you. Why do you seek to mortify me, who have been doing my very best for you? You speak like a man of no understanding, not knowing

Cont...

what is right and what is wrong". After a little pause the grandsire-Bhishma spoke to Duryodhana and soothed him with comforting words, " My child if you are doubting me, here are the five arrows that were meant to finish the five Pandavas tomorrow. Take the this five arrows and give me tomorrow. Fear not".

Thus cheering up the dejected Duryodhana, Bhishma gave him the five arrows as a healing balm to his wounds. Duryodhana felt greatly relieved and went back to his battle camp only to retire for the day.

Krishna, the Supreme personality of Godhead, the Knower of everything - *past, present & future*, could understand Bhishma's vow to finish the five Pandavas the next day, therefore, He devised a plan to avert the terrible danger for the Pandavas. Krishna privately spoke to Arjuna to go to Duryodhana at once and ask for those

five arrows as charity.

Accordingly when Arjuna went to Duryodhana's tent that evening, he offered Arjuna a nice seat and spoke with sweet and affectionate words- "my dear brother, I am very delighted to see you here. Please tell me what I can do for you. If you have come to me for a peace-formula or for a compromise and want your share of kingdom back without the battle, let it be so, since you are my younger brother, it is my duty to offer any gift you might be desirous to ask from me". These piercing words of Duryodhana are not befitting a *Kshatriya* like Arjuna, who politely asked Duryodhana to give him the five arrows that grandfather-Bhishma gave him. For Duryodhana, it was like the earth cracking under his feet and he could understand this as the trick of Krishna to

save the Pandavas. Since he has given the word, Duryodhana had to keep up his dignity and gave the five arrows to Arjuna.

Next day, the battle was resumed with greater intensity and all the Pandavas attacked the grandsire. Bhishma, who fought furiously, could beat the Pandavas back. The Pandava-forces were thoroughly demoralized and were flying hither & thither, like cattle that had lost its way in the forest.

Krishna halted the chariot and said to Arjuna, " Partha, you and your brothers were looking forward to this day after thirteen years of exile. Do not hesitate to kill the grandsire. Remember the duty of a *Kshatriya*."

Arjuna's heart was not in the fight and thought ' he would rather have continued to be an exile in the forest than to kill the grandsire'. "Arjuna, you are not fighting as you

should!" exclaimed Krishna and jumped down in a rage from the chariot and, taking out the chariot-wheel, He advanced towards the grandsire-Bhishma.

Arjuna too immediately jumped down from the chariot and, rushing forward, overtook and held Krishna's feet- "Stop Krishna, please stop," he cried, "Do not break Your pledge as You have promised not to fight in the battle. This is my work and I shall not fail in my duties. I shall kill the beloved grandsire myself for Your sake".

Arjuna took Krishna back and the battle was continued for solid eighteen days at the loss of millions of lives and finally, the Pandavas-being pious and righteous kings, came out victorious by the will of the Supreme Lord Sri Krishna Who always protects His devotees, establishes the religious principles and annihilates the demoniac forces.

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Always Chant

*Hare Krishna Hare Krishna
Krishna Krishna Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama
Rama Rama Hare Hare*

and be Happy

CONCEPT

To create an interest in the child to know about Vedic Culture through reading, learning and playing with a novel idea, we created this unique presentation of amusement.

We tried to tell the story in a condensed book-let-format on the folded-outer side of the paper which depicts the story of the long-mural-Drawing on the unfolded-inner side of the paper. Although it is very difficult to narrate such ocean like Epics (*Ramayana & Mahabharata*) just in three drawings each, we tried our best to capture the climaxes and present the panoramic view of the same in writing the text and as well as in Drawing.

(Children can frame this mural-Drawing and hang it on the wall, if they like)

We are sure, children would relish, cherish and enjoy folding and unfolding this sheet of paper to look at the Drawing and read the short story at the same time.

Another unique feature of this "Story-mural-Book-let" is that we designed a special envelop-cum-case to hold all the three parts of each book intact in order to be displayed on the wall, if needed, as an additional attractive collection to the children's Library.

Good luck, Children!

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