



# ARYA PRATINIDHI SABHA AMERICA

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## Class Notes from Bhagvadgita Svadhyaya

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Courtsey, Smt. Pooja Prakash

Gita has 18 chapters (अध्याय), 700 verses (श्लोक) and has, at least, 22,400 syllables. Maharshi Vyasji has written most of the shlokas in Geeta in the anushtup chhand (अनुष्टुप् छन्द). A shloka in the anushtup chhand has four lines (पद) each with 8 syllables giving us a total of 32 syllables. The estimate of 22,400 syllables in Gita is obtained as  $700 \times 32$ .

In the first shloka, Dhristrashtra says

**धर्मक्षेत्रे कुरुक्षेत्रे समवेता युयुत्सवः |**

**मामकाः पाण्डवाश्चैव किमकुर्वत सञ्जय**

dharma-kshetre kuru-kshetre samaveta yuyutsavaḥ  
māmakāḥ pāṇḍavāśhchaiva kimakurvata sañjaya

### MEANINGS

Dharam-kShetra is the adjective used for Kuru-kshetra

Kurukshetre is the empty ground far away from Hastinapur and IndraPrastha.

Samaveta - having gathered

Yuyutsavah - desiring to fight

Mamakah - My sons

Pandavas- sons of Pandu

Kimkurvata - what did they do

Sanjaya - Sanjay

### LESSONS

We can draw three lessons from this shloka.

First, a secluded place far away from the main cities - Hastinapur and Indraprastha was chosen for the battle so as not to disrupt everyday life of common people and affect the safety of buildings, animals, older people, kids, women etc.

Similarly, in our daily life whenever adults need to work through a conflict, they should ensure that the elders, children and the other family members are not impacted.

Second, because of jealousy and greediness, Dhristrashtra fails to see Pandava's reasonable demand of 5 villages, and instead, calls them as desirous of fighting. Whenever we face similar emotions of jealousy and greed, may we not lose sight of the perspective of others.

Finally, because of his attachment to his own sons, Dhristrashtra forgets about his own relationship to Pandavas and fails to acknowledge that they were his nephews. In similar situations of conflict and attachment, may we not forget our close relationships in life.

**Bhagvadgita Svadyaya led by Acharya Hari Prasad ji**  
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