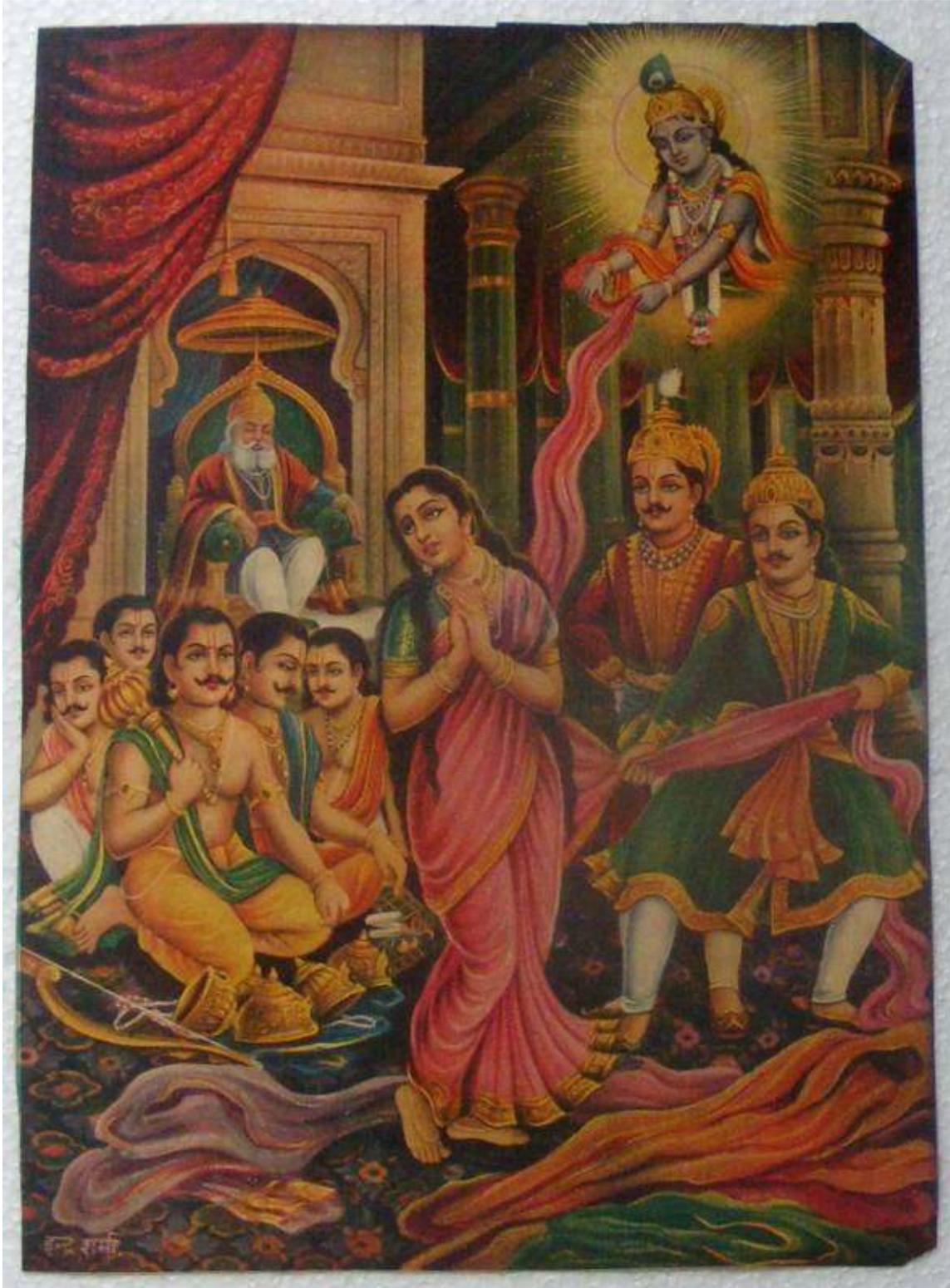


BHAGAVATAM – Krishna Leelas 12

(Draupadi Vastraharana)



Everybody, whoever attended, sang the glory of the Rajasuya Yagna performed by Yudhishtira except few. Pandavas had 100 cousins, the Kauravas. Duryodhana was eldest of all Kaurava brothers, and was the crown prince of Hastinapura. Duryodhana burned with jealousy on Yudhishtira's success and fame. He could not endure the increasing popularity of the Pandava princes.

Following the great ceremony, all the guests left with a great appreciation of the Pandavas. But Duryodhana and his maternal uncle Shakuni extended their stay as special royal guests in order to enjoy the grandeur of the beautiful palace of Yudhishtira. The palace was full of illusionary things, and Duryodhana was repeatedly fooled with those. He saw before him what looked like water. So he lifted up his garments and walked over it only to find that it was actually a smooth crystal floor. Another part of the palace looked like the floor, so Duryodhana stepped on it confidently ignoring the warning from palace maids, only to plunge into a pool of water. In his insufferable pride and arrogance, Duryodhana had made a complete fool of himself. When they saw how ridiculous he looked, the ladies of the palace laughed loud and long. Draupadi was nearby, but she did not laugh. Only Duryodhana thought she was laughing too, so he vowed to himself to get revenge on her. Yudhishtira rebuked them but Duryodhana was angry beyond measure. He lifted himself from the pond and without a word, walked out.

His wicked mind bent upon avenging his hurt pride. He said to Shakuni, "Uncle, I cannot bear this humiliation, this prosperity of the Pandavas. I feel like committing a suicide or to attack Pandavas, and take away all their wealth." Knowing the strength of Pandavas, and support of Sri Krishna, Shakuni said, "Duryodhana, I know a way the Pandavas can be defeated. Who knows, the walls may have ears. Be patient until we got out of this charming palace."

On the way to Hastinapura, Shakuni revealed his evil plan to Duryodhana. He said, "Yudhishtara is fond of the game of dice, and none can beat me in this game because I use charmed dice. Your job is to persuade your father, Dhritarashtra, to I invite Yudhishtira to play dice with me in the presence of all the dignitaries in the court. Leave the rest to me."

Soon after reaching Hastinapur, Duryodhana went to his father, and made him agree to invite Yudhishtira for the game. The Pandavas arrived at Hastinapura with their wife Draupadi on the invitation of Dhritarashtra for the royal dice game. They rested for the night in guest house, and reached the gambling hall on the following day. Other royal dignitaries also arrived and Dhritarashtra and his courtiers welcomed them.

On one side sat Duryodhana, uncle Shakuni, Karna, and Dushasana while the other side was occupied by Yudhishtira and his four brothers. Shakuni would throw dice for Kauravas while Yudhishtira would do the job for Pandavas. Initially, a small amount of money and jewelry was put at stake. The dice was rolled and Shakuni won the throw. Thus the game progressed on and

on, every time Shakuni came up with requisite number with his magical dice. Yudhisthira was bound to lose as the game was already corrupted by Shakuni.

But as a losing gambler, Yudhisthira lost reason and discrimination. Eventually, Yudhisthira lost everything, his riches, his kingdom, his brothers, and finally even himself. The whole court was stunned to see this unusual betting from so righteous a person as Yudhisthira. Bhishma, Dronacharya, and Vidura were great persons in the Kaurava court. They could foresee the approaching catastrophe, but could do nothing. Their appeal for restraint and reason kept hitting on the deaf ears of Kauravas. After all it was a game, a sport, which was played according to set rules; both the parties willingly participating. At last, the desperate gambler in Yudhisthira put Draupadi at stake. Everyone, almost everyone, in court protested, but in vain. As was destined, Yudhisthira lost his wife Draupadi too.

Victorious and lustful Duryodhana asked his brother Dushasana to bring Draupadi to the court. Draupadi was unaware of the calamity that had befallen on her family when Dushasana reached the guest house. She was amazed and shocked to hear that Yudhisthira gambled away every thing including her. Draupadi refused to go to the court. Dushasana, in the pretext of carrying out the orders of his elder brother, dragged her into the court by her hair. Her protest that Yudhisthira had no right to put her at stake was not heard in the court. Heads drooped with shame. King Dhritarashtra was silent. Duryodhana ordered Dushasana to disrobe the lady. Bhishma, the grandsire of Kauravas and Pandavas, objected. Dhritarashtra trembled, but the lust, pride, and blind power of victory was not prepared to listen or see sense.

Lord Krishna Comes to the Rescue

Draupadi looked around but there was no one who could rescue her. Helpless Draupadi had but one hope, one last hope to save her grace. Sri Krishna could save her from disgrace! She started repeating and praying for His grace, the savior of his devotees, the Master of the Universe. The Lord does not wait when his devotee is in such a grave crisis. Sri Krishna invisibly provided unending lengths of cloth on the body of Draupadi.

You know how a saree wraps around the body? What happened was, Dushasana pulled one yard of her sari robe, and then two yards were added by the grace of Sri Krishna! The evil Dushasana went on and on, his hands aching and paralyzed with fatigue, but there was no end to the covering of Draupadi's body. At last Dushasana collapsed, completely exhausted.

"Victory to Lord Krishna", exclaimed Draupadi, and fell down unconscious tears rolling down her eyes.

But still, Duryodhana was not to be put off. Duryodhana ordered Draupadi, "You are my maid servant, come and sit on my thigh." After hearing that, Draupadi charged the elders with anger,

“It is a shame for the race of Kshatriyas, to allow a chaste woman of their own family to be disgraced before their very eyes. I condemn the elders, the so called warriors, sitting here and watching me disgraced.” Dhritarashtra was shaken up. He apologized to Draupadi, and returned their Kingdom Indraprastha for fear of the curse that may befall on the Kauravas.

Uncle Shakuni and Duryodhana were, however, silently grumbling for the “lost opportunity” of putting an end to the prosperity of Pandavas. He persuaded Duryodhana and Dhritarashtra to invite Yudhishthira again for the last and final game of dice. He impressed upon the king that Pandavas were sure to take revenge for their ill treatment. In those days although, gambling was seen as sinful act by many, including Yudhishthira, a warrior and king was declared unmanly to refuse the invitation for such a game. Shakuni knows those all cunning tricks better than any one.

Next day, as Yudhishthira and his brothers were about to leave for Indraprastha, uncle Shakuni put into effect his last hope. He invited Yudhishthira for the final game on behalf of Duryodhana, and consented to by Dhritarashtra. He himself put the condition for the game as, "O Yudhishthira, in this only game whosoever loses will relinquish his kingdom and go to forest exile for twelve years with additional one year of living incognito. If detected in the last year, again exile of twelve years will ensue." Yudhishthira agreed and lost the final game as well. All the five Pandavas and Draupadi put on simple dress and left for the forest.

Questions:

- Describe one of the special features of the floors at Yudhishthira’s capital.
- What was the name of the capital?
- Why did Duryodhana get so angry at Draupadi?
- Did pride make Duryodhana happy?
- Did jealousy make Duryodhana happy?
- What did his Uncle Sakuni tell Duryodhana to do because he was so proud and jealous?
- Do you think what they did was a good idea?
- Did it get Duryodhana what he wanted?
- Do you think he was happy then? For how long?
- What did Dussana do to Draupadi?
- Who saved her honor?
- Do you think Duryodhana behaved in the right way?
- Do you think Yudhishthira should have gambled away his kingdom, brothers, and wife?
- Do you think gambling is a good thing?

MahaLakshmi Ashtakam

Namstestu Mahamaye Shripithe Surapujite
SankhaChakra GadhaHaste MahaLakshmi Namostute (1)

Namaste Garudarudhe Dolasura Bhayankari
SarvaPapaHare Devi MahaLakshmi Namostute (2)

Sarvajne Sarvavarade SarvadáshtaBhayankari
Sarvadukhahare Devi Mahalakshmi Namostute (3)

SidhiBudhiPrade Devi BhuktiMukti Pradayini
Mantramurte Sada Devi Mhalakshmi Nmostute (4)

AdyantaRahite Devi AdiShakti Maheshwari
Yogaje yogaSambhute MahaLakshmi Namostute (5)

SthulaSukshme MahaRaudre MahaShakti Mahodari
MahaPapaHare Devi MahaLakshmi Namostute (6)

PadmasanaSthite Devi ParabrahmaSwarupini
Paramesi Jaganmatarmahalakshmi Namostute (7)

SwetambaraDhare Devi NanalamkaraBhushite
Jagatsthite Jaganmatarmahalakshmi Namostute (8)

Mahalakshmyashtakam stotram yah pathetbaktimannaraha
Sarvasidhi mavapnoti rajyam prapnoti sarvada (9)

Ekakale pathennityam mahapapa vinashanam
Dwikalam yah pathennityam dhanadhanya samanvitah (10)

Trikalam yah pathennityam mahasatru vinashanam
mahalakshmibhavennityam prasanna varada subha (11)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r5Pq1RoMJP4>

Jumble Words – All words are from this lesson

L I E E X

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A D G R

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K A S E T

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E G C A R

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N P D O

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O L N I S L I U

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D E R E U N

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O R L O F

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I U F T A E G

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E A F M

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Coloring exercise: Radha Krishn

