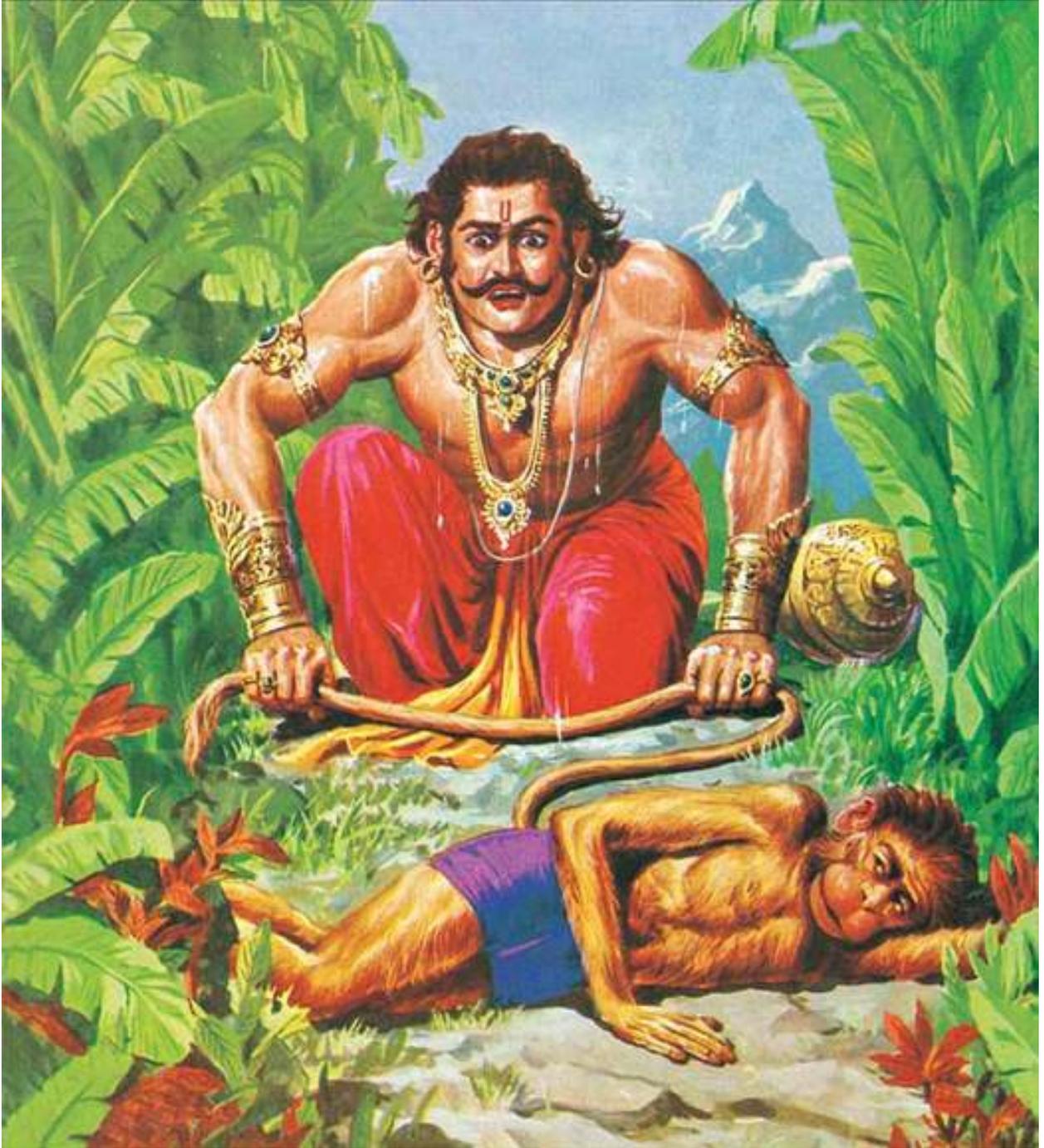


MAHABHARATA – Part 11

(Hanuman and Bhima;
Duryodhana Disgraced)



Hanuman and Bhima

Yudhishtira, Bhima, Nakula, Sahadeva, and Draupadi were living in the Kamyak forest while Arjuna went to the Himlayas, and then to Indraloka in quest of Divine weapons. All of them were unhappy at the long separation from Arjuna. They found life devoid of joy in his absence. Desiring a change of scene and peace, they now moved on in search of a more peaceful place. They went to the charming forest of Narayanasrama, and stayed there for sometime.

One day, the North-East wind wafted a beautiful Flower near Draupadi. The sweet scent of the flower charmed her. Draupadi felt a deep desire to possess that flower known as Saugandhika. She requested Bhima to go get her more of that flower. She was very insistent. Bhima was only too pleased to satisfy her least desire. He forthwith set out in the direction from which the fragrance came.

The way through the forest was far from easy. Before long at the foot of a mountain he saw an old monkey resting on his path, blocking his way. He asked the monkey to get up and clear the way for him. The monkey was in no mood to oblige. It said: "I am too old and weak to move. You can jump over me." Proud Bhima, incensed by this insolence, again asked the monkey to move. He said "You old monkey, you don't know who you are talking to. I am a Kshatriya from the Kuru race. I am the son of Kunti and Vayu, the wind god. I am Bhima, half-brother of the famous Hanuman. So, if you offend me any further, you will incur my wrath. I command you to get up and move aside without wasting my time. The monkey said "If you are in such hurry, you can move my tail aside and go ahead." Bhima's threats did not have any effect on the monkey. Instead, it asked "Who is Hanuman? Tell me what is so great about him. What did he do?" Bhima told him "How can you be so silly and ignorant? Have you not heard of the mighty Hanuman who jumped over to Lanka, across the sea, one hundred yojanas wide, to find Sita, Rama's wife? Indeed you are ignorant!" The monkey only smiled in response.

Bhima grumbled again but also realized there was nothing else to be done but to move the monkey's tail. Bhima tried to move the tail out of his way with his little finger. But he could not move it even a little bit. He then tried to move it with his hand now, but the tail did not move at all. Angry and frustrated, Bhima then threw his mace down. With all his might he held the tail with both hands, took a deep breath, and tried to move it. He could not move it, not even one millimeter! He was all in perspiration. In spite of his best efforts, he could not move the tail.

He felt very humiliated and subdued. He told the monkey "You are no ordinary monkey. Please tell me who you are. I accept defeat and bow to you". Hanuman said "Bhima, I am that Hanuman whose name you mentioned a little while ago. I am your brother. Your path ahead is perilous. It is the path of the gods and is not safe for men. So I came to caution you.

I knew you have come to collect the Saugandhika flowers. I shall show you the pond, where this flower grows. You can collect as many as you want and go back. Bhima was very happy. He bowed To Hanuman and requested him to show his huge form in which he jumped over the sea, one hundred yojanas wide, to land on Lanka. Hanuman increased his size till he seemed to occupy the whole landscape, like a hill. His form was dazzlingly white; so Bhima had to cover his eyes. Resuming his normal form, Hanuman embraced Bhima and blessed him. Bhima and Hanuman then talked a little. Bhima shared with Hanuman the problems he and his brothers were having with his cousins. Hanuman said “Why don’t I go defeat all your cousins in a battle right now? I can easily handle them!” Bhima thanked him, but said it was the Pandavas duty and not Hanuman’s.

Hanuman then told Bhima “When you roar like a lion on the battle field, my voice shall join yours and strike terror in the hearts of your enemies. I will be there on the flag of the chariot of Arjuna. You will be victorious.” With Hanuman’s embrace Bhima’s strength also increased by multiple times. Hanuman freed His brother Bhima from his ego and to give him greater strength to fight his enemies.

Hanuman then took leave of his brother after blessing him. Following Hanuman’s advice, Bhima collected many Saugandhika flowers from the pond, and went back to present them to Draupadi, who was anxiously waiting for his return.

[The moral from this story is to be humble. We should not be proud; we should not be a show off or think highly of ourselves. You saw what happened to Bhima because he was proud. Though he was so strong, but could not even lift a monkey’s tail a little bit. So remember that if we boast about ourselves, we could end up making a fool of ourselves. We should instead learn to be like Hanuman. Even though he was the strongest of them all, he always remained humble and modest.]

Duryodhana Disgraced

After some years, Arjuna joined the other Pandava brothers and Draupadi with a collection of divine weapons that he got from Lord Shiva, Indra, and other gods. Slowly, eleven years of Pandavas exile in the forest had been completed and only a year remained. They all went back to Dwaitavanam.

Many brahmanas visited the Pandavas during their exile, and one such, returning to Hastinapura, went to see Dhritarashtra. The brahmana told him how the Pandavas, born princes, were, by unkind destiny, at the mercy of the wind and the sun, and suffered great privations. Dhritarashtra was sorry to hear this. But he was more worried about the fate of his own sons once the Pandavas completed their exile. Though Dhritarashtra was thus worried, Sakuni, Karna, and Duryodhana were very happy to hear about the Pandavas deprivations. Not satisfied with that, Duryodhana decided to go to Dwaitavanam for a hunting game with Shakuni and Karna to see the sufferings of the Pandavas with their own eyes, and get more pleasure out of it.

Indra heard about this and sent the chief of the Gandharvas, Chitrasena in order to teach a lesson to Duryodhana so that he stayed humble in the future and stopped bothering the Pandavas.

The Kauravas reached Dwaitavanam with a great army and many followers. Duryodhana and Karna went with unconcealed joy at the very thought of being able to gloat on the sad plight of the Pandavas. While hunting, Duryodhana and his party reached an attractive lake near the hermitage of the Pandavas, and ordered a camp to be put on its bank. Chitrasena and his attendants had already encamped in the neighborhood of the pool and they prevented Duryodhana's men from putting up their camp, who claimed the lake and its surrounding areas to be theirs.

Enraged by this interruption of his plans, Duryodhana attacked the Gandharva army, and suffered a humiliating defeat despite fighting valiantly and valorously. Karna and the other Kaurava heroes lost their chariots and weapons, and had to run away from the battlefield. Duryodhana alone remained but he was soon seized by Chitrasena as a prisoner. Some of the soldiers who had escaped the Gandharva army fled to the other side of the lake and narrated what had happened to Yudhishtira and his brothers.

Upon hearing this, Bhima started laughing at the plight of their Kaurava cousins. He was happy that his duties had become that much easier with Duryodhana and his brothers out of the way. In his opinion, Duryodhana got what he deserved as he surely had camped on the opposite side of the lake just to laugh at them.

Yudhishtira intervened and told his brothers that this was not the time for cruelty. He stated that it was the duty of family members to protect and uphold the honor and dignity of the family name. Saying so, Yudhishtira instructed Arjuna and Bhima to battle the Gandharvas and free Duryodhana. Obedient to his request, Bhima and Arjuna rallied the routed Kaurava forces and offered battle to the Gandharvas. But Chitrasena had no wish to fight with the Pandavas and at their approach, released Duryodhana and the other prisoners saying that all he wanted was to teach a lesson to these arrogant Kauravas. The dishonored Kauravas returned in haste to Hastinapura, with Karna, who, having been driven off the battle field, joined them on the way.

Thus, Duryodhana who had come to Dwaitavana to humiliate the Pandavas with his show of opulence and wealth had to go back to Hastinapura after being humiliated himself. He was in so much shame he wanted to die, but Karna and other Kauravas consoled him with sweet words.

This incident is a clear case of Yudhishtira displaying compassion and kindness towards those who only wanted to hurt him, the Kauravas. Despite the fact that he was duty bound to defend his family name, Yudhishtira could have easily avoided the same on some pretext or the other, but the fact that he chose not to displays his commitment to his duty and his compassionate nature.

Questions:

- Why did Bhima climb into the mountains?
- Why did Hanuman stop him? (give at least two reasons)
- What does “humility” mean?
- What is the opposite of humility?
- Why didn’t Bhima accept Hanuman’s offer to defeat his cousins? Wouldn’t it have saved them a lot of trouble?
- What boons did Hanuman give Bhima?
- What is the moral of this story?
- Why did Duryodhana go to Dvaitavanam?
- Was Duryodhana a happy person, do you think? Why or why not?
- Who was waiting for Duryodhana and his group when he tried to camp by the lake?
- Why was there a battle there?
- What happened during the battle? Who got captured, and who ran away?
- What happened to Duryodhana? Why was he humiliated?
- Is there anything we can learn from this story about our own behavior to others?

Lingashtakam

Brahma Murari surarchita Lingam; Nirmala bhasita sobhita Lingam
Janmaja dukha vinasaka Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (1)

Devamuni pravararchita Lingam; Kamadahana karunakara Lingam
Ravana darpa vinasaka Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (2)

Sarva sugandhi sulepita Lingam; Buddhi vivardhana karana Lingam
Siddha surasura vandita Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (3)

Kanaka maha mani bhushita Lingam; Paniphati veshtitha shobhita Lingam
Dakshasu yajna vinashana Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (4)

Kumkuma chandana lepita Lingam Pankaja hara sushobhita Lingam
Sanchita papa vinashana Lingam Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (5)

Devaganarchita sevita Lingam
Bhavair bhaktibhi revacha Lingam
Dinakarakoti prabhakara Lingam
Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (6)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_z4oRinK3E

Meaning:

*Which is Worshipped and Served by the Group of Devas (Gods) with True Bhava (Emotion, Contemplation) and Bhakti (Devotion),
And which has the Splendour of Million Suns. I Salute that Eternal Shiva Lingam.*

Sri Venkateswara Stotram

kamalAkucha choochuka kunkumatO — niyatAruNitAtula neelatanO
kamalAyata IOchana IOkapatE — vijayeebhava vEnkaTa SailapatE (1)

sachaturmukha shaNmukha panchamukha — pramukhAkhila daivata mouLimaNE
SaraNagata vatsala sAranidhE — paripAlayamAm vRushaSailapatE (2)

ativElatayA tava durvishahai: — anuvElakRutai raparAdha Satai:
bharitam tvaritam vRushaSailapatE — parayA kRupayA paripAhi harE (3)

adhivEnkaTaSailamudAra matEr — janatAbhi matAdhi kadAnaratAt
paradEvatayA gaditAnnigamai: — kamalAdayitA nnaparam kalayE (4)

kalavENuravA vaSagOpa vadhoo — SarakOTi vRutAt smara kOTi samAt
prativalla vikAbhimata tsukhadAt — vasudEvasutAnnaparam kalayE (5)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7VhEfEud88>

Jumble Words – All words are from this lesson

N E S C T

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O R R A

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U S T Q E

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I E B O L G

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M C P A

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B C R E A M E

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C N E I S E N

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T A H W R

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U E L G M R B

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N D T S I Y E

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Coloring exercise: Lord Hanuman

