

## SUMMARY OF STHRI PARVA

Sthri Parva consists three sub chapters namely Jalaprdanikaparva, Strivilaaparva and Shraadhaparva and totally it has 818 slokas in it.

### I. JALAPRADANIKAPARVA

This parva consists of fifteen chapters i.e. from 1<sup>st</sup> to 15th. Dhrtarashtra was grief-stricken with the death of his hundred sons. On seeing his condition Sanjay said, 'O King! Why do you become sorrowful? Eighteen army corps were killed in this battle field. You offer libations to your sons, relatives and friends.' After listening to his words, Dhrtarashtra who was sorrowful said thus, 'O Sanjaya! All my sons, ministers, friends were killed. I will experience sorrow here. I never listened to the words of welfare of Parasurama, Narada, Vyasa and others. Out of affection on my son I didn't listen to the words of welfare of Srikrishna and Bhishma. The result of which is to be faced by me now. While consoling the sorrow of Dhrtarashtra, Sanjay said thus, 'O best among the kings! Your son Duryodhana misbehaved a lot due to the pride of youth. The wicked Dussasana, Karna, Sakuni, Citrasena and Salya were his ministers. He didn't listen to anybody's good words. You too were neutral. You didn't give him any good suggestions. There is no use of repenting now. Hence, don't be pathetic now.' Thus Sanjaya consoled Dhrtarashtra. While pacifying Dhrtarashtra, Vidura also said thus, 'O king! Why are you grief-stricken? This is the ultimate state for all the living beings. No one can trespass the time. All the warriors have obtained a good path in the battle field. It's not fair to lament for them.' When Dhrtarashtra questioned Vidura, he explained him about the transitory nature of the universe. He also explained him about the actual situation of this sorrowful world. He also said that human beings, who fall in the ocean of the world, though fearful, will not get detached with the desire to live. Whereas, the scholars will know the nature of the cycle of the world and being detached get relieved from all the bonds of the world. O king! The scholars say that the body of the living beings is a chariot. The Principle of Sattva is charioteer. The senses are the horses. The Intellect driving action is the reins. Who ever follows the speed of horses, will move like a wheel in the cycle of this world. Who ever controls the senses will not fall in the bindings of the world.

While consoling the distressed Dhrtarashtra, sage Vyasa said thus, 'O Dhrtarashtra! This world of living beings is transitory. The Eternal is Supreme and ever lasting. Indeed the life ends with death only. It's not fair to lament for this. This destruction of Kauravas was certain. Nobody can stop God's decision. I will tell you that which I saw and listened in the court of gods. Long ago, in Indra's court, the Goddess of Earth requested the gods to fulfill fast the promised work. Having listened to her words, Lord Vishnu said that the eldest among Dhrtarashtra's hundred sons accomplish her work. All the kings would kill one another in the battle of Kurukshetra. Thus her burden would be declined. O Dhrtarashtra, Duryodhana is a part of Kali, who was born from the womb of Gandhari, to destroy the world of Kshatriyas. Fortunately, his brothers were also born of same kind. Sakuni his maternal uncle and Karna also joined him. Your sons were destroyed by their own offences. Do not lament for them. Pandavas didn't do any offence.' Having heard the words of Vyasa, Dhrtarashtra said thus, 'O the best among the Sages! I



understood that due to the inspiration of gods everything has happened. I will try not to lament.’ Having heard his words, the Sage Vyasa disappeared from there.

Sanjaya lost his divine vision, when Duryodhaya was killed along with his army. Having stood in the court of Dhrtarashtra, Sanjaya said, ‘O king every body asked your son for peace. But he destroyed the entire earth due to his rivalry with Pandavas. Your son was killed in the battle field along with his relatives and army. You offer the libations to him.’ After hearing these words Dhrtarashtra fainted and fell on the ground. Vidura, the knower of Dharma, having seen the condition of Dhrtarashtra, came to him and said thus, ‘O king! You please do not lament. This is the ultimate state of all the creatures. All the creatures are dependent on the time. No one can trespass it. All those who were killed in the battle field went to the heaven. What is the necessity to lament for them? O King! You control yourself and think about your duty.’ Having heard the words of Vidura, the king ordered him to bring fast Kunti, Gandhari and other women and went on his chariot. Gandhari, who was lamenting for her son came near Dhrtarashtra along with Kunti and other women. They all were crying a lot. Vidura consoled everybody. Along with Dhrtarashtra, they all went to Kripacharya, Asvatthama and Krthavarma. On seeing Dhrtarashtra, those three warriors spoke thus with tear-clogged voice, ‘O king! Your son has done a very inappropriate deed and went to the heaven along with his companions. The entire army is lost in the battle field. We three are left alive.’ Krupacharya said to Gandhari who was lamenting for her son, ‘O devi! Your sons have fought bravely as warriors and obtained the path of warriors. So, you should not lament for them. Pandavas also didn’t gain much after the battle. Bhimasena killed your son disloyally. Hence, when all the Pandavas were sleeping in the night, we headed by Asvatthama, went to their camp and killed Dhrtadyumna, all the Panchalas and the five sons of Draupadi. Thus by killing the enemies of your son, we three are fleeing away. We cannot stay here. At any time Pandavas may come here to take revenge on us.’ Those three took the permission of Dhrtarashtra and bid farewell to each other and went away on three different ways. Kripacharya went to Hastinapura, Krtavarma to his own nation and Asvatthama went towards the hermitage of Vyasa. Those three warriors reached their destinations even before the sun-rise. Thereafter, Pandavas went to Asvatthama and defeated him in the battle-field.

Yudhishtira, who was tormented by the sorrow of his sons’ demise, went to Dhrtarashtra along with his brothers. Draupadi, along with the women of Paanchalas followed them. Every body reached the bank of Ganges. There Yudhishtira was surrounded by many women who were lamenting a lot and who were blaming him. Having stridden the women flock Yudhishtira reached Dhrtarashtra and saluted him. The rest of the Pandavas also saluted him and told their names. Grief-stricken Dhrtarashtra embraced Yudhishtira unhappily and was searching for Bhimasena. Then a wicked thought aroused in his mind. Having understood his mind Srikrishna removed Bhimasena from there and with his hands he placed there an idol made of iron. Dhrtarashtra thought that it was indeed Bhimasena and hard-pressed it with his shoulders and broke that iron idol into pieces. The blood has flown from Dhrtarashtra’s mouth and he fell on the ground. Thereafter, Sanjaya went and held the king and while consoling him said that he shouldn’t have done like that. Slowly, Dhrtarashtra’s anger got down and he sank in the ocean of deep sorrow. Srikrishna





convinced him by telling him the fact. Thereafter, Dhrtarashtra's anger got down totally and his mind obtained tranquility. He embraced Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva. Thereafter all the Pandavas along with Srikrishna went to Gaandhari. Gandhari decided to curse all the Pandavas. Having known this, Sage Vyasa came there and instructed her to control her anger. Then Gandhari said, 'O lord! I don't have envy with Pandavas. I even don't want to see their destruction. My mind became distressed by the sorrow of my sons. The destruction of Kuru's clan was made by the mistakes of my brother Sakuni, Karna and Dussasana. There was no mistake with the sons of Pandus. I didn't like the disloyal that was done by Bhimasena to Duryodhana in the battle of mace, in the presence of Srikrishna. In spite of knowing that Duryodhana was stronger than Bhima in the art of mace, Bhima hit him under the naval of Duryodhana, which increases my anger.' Thus listening to the words of Gandhari, scared Bhimasena obediently told thus, 'It may be right or wrong. Having feared from Duryodhana, I did thus to protect my life. Nobody was daring enough to kill Duryodhana. Hence, I misbehaved with him. He insulted Draupadi in the assembly. He showed her his left thigh in the court. So I hit on his thighs.' Then Gandhari accepted her son's mistake. She proclaimed that the way Bhima killed Dussasana and drank his blood was also a wicked deed. While replying her Bhimasena said, 'it's a fact that one shouldn't drink the blood of others. Then how can one drink one's own blood? O mother! You please don't worry. That blood did not cross my teeth and lips. Only my two hands were drenched with blood. I did thus, to fulfill my vow.' Then Gandhari said, 'I wouldn't have been so much distressed if one of my hundred sons, who had committed very few sins is survived.' Having said thus, angrily she asked for Yudhishtira. Having heard this, Yudhishtira who was scared, said thus with pleasing words, 'O devi! Here is Yudhishtira who is the cause of your sons' slay. You curse me.' Having said thus, Yudhishtira bent his body and was about to fell on her feet. In the meanwhile, Gandhari saw the nails of the fingers of his feet from the bandage of her eyes. No sooner she saw them, those beautiful nails turned black. After seeing the condition of his elder brother Arjuna hid behind Srikrishna. Slowly Gaandhari's anger went down and she consoled every one as a mother. Thereafter, Pandavas went to their mother Kunti. She pacified Draupadi who was lamenting a lot. Further, they both along with Pandavas went to Gaandhari. Gaandhari convinced and explained Draupadi and Kunti that it was due to her mistake the clan of Kuru was destroyed.

## **2. STHRIVILAAPAPARVA**

This sub-parva comprises of ten chapters i.e. from 16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> chapters and contains 327 number of slokas. Gandhari saw the place of destruction of her sons with her divine vision. She lamented a lot by seeing that inauspicious scene. Thereafter, following the orders of Sage Vyasa, Dhrtarashtra and Pandavas went to the battle field. The women of Kuru's clan lamented a lot by seeing the bodies of their husbands, brothers and relatives. Gandhari, who saw the body of Duryodhana that was surrounded by her daughter-in-law who was crying a lot, went to Srikrishna and lamented a lot. She became distressed by seeing her other sons and brother. Having seen the sorrow of other women, Gaandhari expressed her sorrow to Srikrishna.

## **3) SHRAADDHAPARVA**



This sub-parva consists of two chapters i.e. from 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> chapters and contains 74 slokas. Lord Srikrishna said thus to Gandhari, 'O Gaandhari! Do not lament. Indeed it's because of your fault Kauravas were destroyed. You did a mistake by supporting Duryodhana's wicked behavior. Why do you want to put this blame on me?' Gaandhari remained silent by listening to the unpleasant words of Srikrishna. Having followed the orders of Dhrtarashtra, Yudhishtira offered the ultimate libations to everyone. Kunti revealed the birth secret of Karna. After listening to this, Yudhishtira lamented a lot and said that she made him to kill his elder brother by not revealing this secret. Further he cursed that from then onwards women cannot conceal any secret matter. Having said thus, he along with his brothers came out of the Ganges to its bank.

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