

Diplomacy in *Krishnaism*

Learning from the Maestro

~ Pratchi Sathpathy (X-G)



यदा यदा हि धर्मस्य ग्लानिर्भवति भारत।
अभ्युत्थानमधर्मस्य तदात्मानं सृजाम्यहम्॥

Krishna—he is dark as night; his lotus eyes grace whatever they see; he enchants the world with his melodies. To his devotees, *Krishna* is more than a deity—he is a friend, a parent, a teacher, and a child. Apart from the core values of life, *Krishna* teaches us something that is becoming increasingly essential in today's multipolar world, diplomacy.

Krishna is often viewed as the world's greatest diplomat owing to his unmatched wisdom, tact, and strategic brilliance. It is the first and foremost duty of a diplomat to maintain peaceful relations. *Krishna* plays a crucial role as a mediator between the *Pandavas* and the *Kauravas*. His divine presence and eloquence turned the most hostile situation into a forum for discussion. When he proposed a compromise, seeking only five villages for the *Pandavas*, he also gave them the instant moral high ground. Think about it, isn't *Duryodhana's* refusal of this request one of the first incidents that comes to mind when his treachery is the matter at hand?



The preparations for war were in full swing when finally, it was time for the warring sides to seek *Krishna's* alliance. It was nighttime, and *Krishna* was asleep when *Duryodhana* reached his bedchamber first, seating himself next to *Krishna's* pillow. *Arjuna* arrived moments later, kneeling at the foot of the bed. *Krishna* stirred and smiled at the two, offering them both a choice—his non-combatant counsel or his vast army. Displaying a profound understanding of *Duryodhana's* insatiable material nature, he had predicted that he would choose military might and *Arjuna* would hold onto his dear friend, and that is exactly what happened.

Ah, the *Bhagavad Gita*, the song divine, the single book with the answers to all of humanity's most important questions. It is in itself a lesson on day-to-day diplomacy as we navigate our lives. With clarity of thought and speech, *Krishna* imparts his divine wisdom and motivates *Arjuna*, reminding him of his roles and responsibilities as a warrior, a *Kshatriya*.



Kanha's orchestration of events and manipulation of the situation are proof of his diplomacy. *Dronacharya* was a formidable warrior whose death determined the fate of the *Pandava* victory. *Krishna* devised a masterful plan to exploit *Drona's* only weakness—his love for his son, *Ashwatthama*. The cry "Ashwatthama is dead" echoed across the battlefield and crippled *Drona's* morale, killing him from the inside out. Advising *Bheema* to strike *Duryodhana* on his thigh, although against the laws of mace-fighting, showed that he understood the necessity of keeping one's ethics flexible in times of war and using unorthodox methods when faced with evil. *Krishna* showed deep insight into his friend's limitations—he knew *Arjuna* and *Karna* were equally matched and prompted *Arjuna* to take *Karna's* life by unfair means, without which the war would never have turned in the *Pandavas'* favour. like *Krishna* did during the *Mahabharata* war, and use it For *Bharat* to rise as a winner in the global game, she must develop the art of balance between bold action, strategic patience, and diplomacy. She must grasp the ever-changing interests of her friends and foes and read into their psyche, just to her advantage. We stand now at the cusp of development in leaps and bounds. We must harness our potential and turn it into something worthwhile. Although the Republic of India turned seventy-eight this year, Indian civilisation has been here for millennia. And it is high time we look back at our past with pride and learn to prove our mettle, forging a bright future for ourselves.

