



# Sanskar Gurukul Weekly Update



**Class Name:** Bhrgu

**Week# 10:** December 13, 2015

## General Assembly

Hari Om Everyone. Here is the GA update for today's session.

We started the GA with three Omkars followed by the Shanti Mantra and Prayer Before Studies, and a review of a lot of the prayers from the Prayer Book.

Then Sridhar Uncle talked about the Vedas. The root word for Veda means knowledge. The Vedas are an encyclopedia of knowledge that was passed down verbally from Lord Brahma to our Rishis. Sage Vyasa decided to compile it so that future generations could learn from the wisdom and knowledge contained in them. That is why he is also known as Veda Vyasa. His great grand father was Sage Vashista who wrote parts of the Rig Veda, and also a book on Astronomy. As we all know, all the Gurukul classes are named after Sages. We will learn a little bit about our Sages over the next few weeks.

## Class

We started the class with three Omkars followed by the Shanti Mantra and 'before studies' prayer 'Saraswati Namastubhyam'.

We continued the story where Pandu and Madri had passed away and grief stricken Kunti and five Pandava brothers accompanied by rishis of shatashriga forest arrived in Hastinapura. This incidence once again made Hastinapura to go in mourning. Three older queens (Ambika, Ambalika and Satyawati) decided to retire to forest for penance. Bheeshma crowned blind Dhritarashtra as the King of Hastinapura who ruled the kingdom with Vidura on his side and picked up reins again to make sure five Pandavas and 100 Kauravas get the best possible education suitable for kshatriya princes.

In Hastinapur, Pandavas and Kauravas were growing up together. Yudhishtira was the most righteous, handsome prince and everyone fell in love with him and other Pandavas. Bheeshma became real fond of these five virtuous boys and Vidura and everyone in the palace were very pleased to have them around. Well, almost everyone! Kauravas, mainly eldest kaurava, Duryodhana, started getting jealous. Till Pandavas arrived, he was the crowned prince of the kingdom and was the most favorite of all. Suddenly, he had competition and he didn't like it. Additionally, his uncle, Shakuni, started brainwashing him about how Yudhishtira, being the oldest of them, would be the future king of Hastinapura. Duryodhana started feeling more jealous and unhappy about Pandavas' presence. To add insult to injury, Bheema, the Vayuputra, was big and really strong. He was a prankster of them all and in a friendly fights with brothers, always won. Duryodhana was the most resentful towards Bheema and started thinking about ways to get rid of him and other Pandavas.



# Sanskar Gurukul Weekly Update



Kunti and even Vidura noticed Duryodhana's attitude, Shakuni's influence and realized that it can become disastrous for the dynasty. Vidura tried to alert Dhritarashtra, the King, but he wasn't ready to believe that his beloved son would be doing anything wrong and tried to justify Duryodhana's behavior. Vidura was disappointed in Dhritarashtra and warned Kunti not to voice her suspicions for her and her son's safety.

One day, all Kauravas and Pandavas were to go for picnic and swimming in river Ganga. With Shakuni's encouragement, Duryodhana came up with an evil plot to get rid of Bheema. He knew that Bheema liked sweets. He prepared special sweets, 'laddoos' and mixed most dangerous poison, 'kalkuta' in it. *(Bhriku class students recalled that we had come across this poison during churning of the oceans story in Bhagvatam I and Vasuki, the serpent, who was used as a rope to churn ocean (to get amrita), produced it. It was a very powerful poison that threatened to burn all of the earth. Lord Shiva intervened and by holding it in his throat saved the earth but poison was really potent and that turned His throat blue. Therefore, Lord Shiva is also called 'Neelkantha').*

Duryodhana told Bheema that he got special laddoos for Bheema as a token of his love. Bheema, the innocent, believed him and ate all the laddoos. Poison took effect instantly and Bheema became unconscious. Duryodhana and Shakuni tied Bheema's hands and feet with ropes and threw him in river Ganga in a spot infested with snakes and other dangerous animals.

All the boys were having great time at the picnic. After a while Yuddhishtira thought he hadn't seen Bheema in a while and started looking for him but couldn't find him. He asked his other brothers but no one knew where Bheema was. Assuming that Bheema might have gone back to Hastinapura, boys decided to call it a day and go home. After reaching Hastinapura, they asked Kunti and the palace staff but nobody could recall seeing Bheema. Pandavas and Kunti got very worried. They suspected Duryodhana might have something to do with it.

WE DECIDED TO STOP STORY HERE to pick up after the break and spent rest 30 min in going over values that we have come across in Mahabharata.

We talked about universal values. How universal values are applicable to all places at all times to all persons. Then we talked about personal likes and dislikes. How we can align our likes with universal values. We discussed about differences between cultural and universal values. Kids share several examples from real life how they were being applied by different persons in society. Then we talked about why it's necessary to follow universal values. This will create good society to live in.

## Homework

Read First chapter in Values book (purple book)

## Announcements

1. There will be no class on Sun Dec 20, and Sun Dec 27, on account of the winter



## Sanskar Gurukul Weekly Update



break. We will see everyone back on Sun, Jan 3.

2. **Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all. Have a wonderful, relaxing break.**
3. Several children have already turned in their artwork for the Sanskar Darpan – yearbook. If you still want to contribute your artwork for the Sanskar Darpan - yearbook - please be sure to bring yours in on Sunday, Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016. We will try our best to include it. This has to be on letter size paper and flat - drawing/painting of Ma Durga, her vehicle, her symbolism, celebrations of Ma Durga, etc.