



# Sanskar Gurukul Weekly Update



**Class Name:** Kanwa

**Week#28:** May 15, 2016

## General Assembly (GA)

We started the GA with three Omkars followed by the Shanti Mantra. A couple of students came on stage and narrated a discussion they had in class regarding getting control over your mind, by, for example depriving yourselves of technology for entertainment for one day. This led to the story that was discussed a couple of weeks ago regarding the king and his bodyguard.

A king had a bodyguard who took very good care of him, so the king decided to reward him by telling him they could switch places for one day. There are many things that could have happened - bodyguard could have killed the king, the bodyguard could have been killed because the king was not a good bodyguard, the bodyguard could have had the king imprisoned etc.. What really happened was that the bodyguard got the king killed and there was chaos in the kingdom. The bodyguard is the "mind" and the king is "you". If you have control over the mind and tell it what to do, then there will be peace and happiness. The moment your mind starts controlling you, you lose control of your life, your ego takes control.

This led to another analogy - of a car and driver. The car is equivalent to the "mind". "You", the driver tell the car where to go, when to stop. If the car crashes, it is the fault of the driver - not the car. The car is just a "servant", and you the "master" need to tell it where to go. Just imagine what would happen if the car takes control of you. "You" are supposed to use the "mind" and tell it what to do, not the other way around.

Then we went back to the start of the discussion about depriving ourselves of technology for one day. By doing that, you are telling your mind that you are in control. If you start playing video games and can't seem to let go, it means the "servant" (your mind) has become your master. It could also be something as simple as sitting still doing meditation, which is not easy for a lot of people. If you tell your mind that you will not move during meditation, you will succeed. Remember, your mind is your servant and you need to tell it what to do. If you develop this kind of control over your mind, you will very peaceful.

..... Hari Om, Krishnan Iyer

## Class

- **Opening Prayers** (Om Saha Naa Vavatu; Saraswati Namastubhyam)
- **Topic:** End of Year Reflection Activity (5/8, 5/15)
  - Students' honest and thoughtful reflections are included below:

### Square Reflection Activity

1 Take-away Message

1 Feedback/Comment



1 Personal Connection

1 Lingerin Question



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**Message:** Greed is not good.

**Connection:** I connect with the story because all the characters sacrifice things and sometimes I have to sacrifice things for the greater good.

**Question:** Why do the characters always choose to die painful deaths?

**Feedback/Comment:** I like the way you narrated the story.

**By: Mansi, Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** Although everybody may pressure you to do one thing, always do the thing that you feel is right.

**Connection:** In school, one person was selling donuts even though the teachers had not said he could, and I did not buy them although I perhaps would've.

**Question:** How does the general timeline of all this fit together?

**Feedback/Comment:** Maybe every once in a while we could organize into teams and debate on topics.

**By: Rohan Tapiawala, Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** Sometimes you have to make major sacrifices, no matter how much it hurts you or your family, because no matter what, the outcome will probably affect you more.

**Connection:** Just like with the Pandavas, my family will do anything for each other.

**Question:** Instead of Abhimanyu sacrificing himself, couldn't have Arjuna just told him how to get out?

**Feedback/Comment:** More stories/folktales please. Thank you for teaching us!

**By: Shanaya, Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** Jealousy can turn into hatred.

**Connection:** I have seen people around me that conspire against each other because they want to be better.

**Question:** Why couldn't Yudhishtira refuse to play the game of dice if playing wasn't the right thing to do?

**Feedback/Comment:** I really felt that the Mahabharata has a lot of sad parts and it is a very heavy story.

**By: Juhi Dighe, Kanwa Class, 2015-16**



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**Message:** Don't make promises you can't keep.

**Connection:** None

**Question:** Why did Karna not join his real brothers?

**Feedback/Comment:** I had fun!

**By: Manav K., Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** The Mahabharata shows me that bravery, loyalty, kindness, and truthfulness is good. No respect or integrity always leads to a negative character.

**Connection:** None

**Question:** Why did Bhishma sleep on the bed of arrows instead of something comfortable?

**Feedback/Comment:** Nothing would happen if someone didn't produce so many relatively close children that soon will try to kill each other.

**By: Shriya D., Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** Always do the right thing.

**Connection:** When Kunti tested her boon..... Sometimes I also don't believe what people say until I actually see it.

**Question:** Why did Balarama want Subhadra to marry Duryodhana?

**Feedback/Comment:** I enjoyed the part where the Pandavas disguised themselves.

**By: Mahek Aggarwal, Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** Always be true to yourself.

**Connection:** People's character changes when they try to be someone else.

**Question:** How did Pandu always remain so positive (... inspite of frail health) ?

**Feedback/Comment:** Drona is my favorite character.

**By: Jayati Sridhar, Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** Do what you need to do to succeed/don't let your emotions get in the way of what you need to do to be successful.

**Connection:** Instead of procrastinating I should do my projects and homework ahead of time to get good grades and be successful.

**Question:** If Pandu would be alive then would the Mahabharata/war be different?



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**Feedback/Comment:** They taught us very well and the Mahabharata was fun with them. It was a very heavy story and it had many messages and situations similar to what people experience today.

**By: Anika Bhatnagar, Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** Things are not only a black and white (not just good or evil). There's a gray area for everyone.

**Connection:** In school people argue about the smallest things, and everyone takes sides.

**Question:** How would the story be different if Kunti had kept Karna?

**Feedback/Comment:** I think it was really interesting to learn so many details about the story.

**By: Divya Nataraj, Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** You should always be truthful, righteous, brave, and kind.

**Connection:** Two sides wanting something and they fight for it.

**Question:** Why was Duryodhana bad?

**Feedback/Comment:** Your teaching is great! Please be our teachers again next year. I had fun! History was great, and all the stories were nice.

**By: Soham, Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** Jealousy will always lead to defeat.

**Connection:** Kunti is like my mom and very caring and nice.

**Question:** How did Dhritirashtra die?

**Feedback/Comment:** I really liked the Mahabharata.

**By: Om, Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** Using bad values will give you a bad future.

**Connection:** Every action has a reaction.

**Question:** Why were there only 5 Pandavas?

**Feedback/Comment:** It is interesting to learn the Mahabharata as it leads us to a good future.

**By: Sargam Nanda, Kanwa Class, 2015-16**

**Message:** The right side always defeats the evil.

**Connection:** The part in the Indian TV shows with many arguments reminds me of the Mahabharata.

**Question:** When did the Pandavas die?



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**Feedback/Comment:** We should do more activities, such as games.

**By:** Roshan Rama, Kanwa Class, 2015-16

**Message:** Everything has a consequence.

**Connection:** Me and my brother fight a lot.

**Question:** Why didn't Ganga tell Shantanu why she was killing the babies from the beginning?

**Feedback/Comment:** Take more time on each character to help remember each one.

**By:** Kush Patel, Kanwa Class, 2015-16

**Message:** If you steal butter, you are God.

**Connection:** Make an oath you can do ("commit to").

**Question:** Why is God not intervening when Donald Trump is becoming President?

**Feedback/Comment:** I think you should hold more debates.

**By:** Anirudh, Kanwa Class, 2015-16

**Message:** Always be true to yourself.

**Connection:** In life, follow your heart not others.

**Question:** How has this story been passed on throughout the generations, without being modified?

**Feedback/Comment:** I enjoyed how you guys told and shared the story.

**By:** Saajan Patel, Kanwa Class, 2015-16

**Message:** Don't mess with sons of Gods.

**Connection:** Once I made a bet with my friend knowing that I was probably going to lose, but since it was a matter of pride I did not back down.

**Question:** Why didn't Duryodhana surrender when he knew the war was a lost cause?

**Feedback/Comment:** Why was Duryodhana so egotistic/salty?

**By:** Devesh, Kanwa Class, 2015-16

**Message:** Never give up and always finish what you have started.

**Connection:** My mom is like Kunti, she is sweet and caring.

**Question:** What would happen if there were two wars in the story?

**Feedback/Comment:** The values taught me a lot.

**By:** Ayush Shah, Kanwa Class, 2015-16



# Sanskar Gurukul Weekly Update



- **Closing Prayers**

## Homework

- Complete any unfinished worksheets in Mahabharata Book

## Announcements

- *2 more classes left*
- *Memorial weekend – no Gurukul Class*
- *Kulfest on June 12<sup>th</sup>*