

IMPRESSIONS OF BHIMA

Bhima:

Yesterday Arjuna killed his first animal.
A deer
Did the elders give you a bow and arrow ?

A deer ! Arjuna has killed a deer

Yudhisra told Arjuna, “When a Kshatriya kills his first animal, he gives it as a bali – to the gods – and says thanks to them”.

I too killed my first animal.
Yesterday .
A wild boar.
A single wild boar

Yudhisra said to me, “Manda why did you do this? If Ma knows about it she will be very angry!”

For Yudhisra I am still Manda.
For the Kauravas, Vrigodara

I love Arjuna
Yesterday he killed an animal
Yesterday I killed an animal
He killed a deer
I killed a single wild boar
He killed in the game of the hunt
I killed in self-defense

A single wild boar had come out the rocks. It took my smell, and ran towards me like an arrow, I was afraid.

The hunters say, “ You must fear the single wild boar, fear it more than a lion.”
I was afraid.

What stories would the sutas sing of me? Bhimasena son of Vayu, born to be the strongest man, died on the tusk of a boar – before killing his first animal.

Bali !
I offered no Bali.

But when you kill the single wild boar, you become a man.

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The actor tells a story:

When I was a little boy my grandmother told me to never sleep on a mat that was too small for me. “If your legs stick out of the mat, all your energy will get drained out of your body” she said.

She said that this story was history.

But after some time I realized that this was not His story but Her story passing from generation to generation from the time of Bhimasena and Duryodhana.

When our Bhima and Duryodhana were little boys they were constantly quarrelling and fighting, to prove which one was stronger.

Normally Bhimasena won – because though Duryodhana had more skill, Bhima had strength.

One day, fed up of being defeated, Duryodhana went to his uncle Shakuni for help. Now Shakuni had many tricks and cunning ways to defeat an enemy.

So he gave Duryodhana a PACKET and told him to give this as a gift to Bhima. Duryodhana went to Bhima and said : “Bhima! Bhima! Here is a present from me. Take it, take it “.

So Bhima took the package because he loved presents – AND he did not want to fight with anyone. He had no ego hassles, no professional jealousy and no existential problems.

That night he opened the packet – and what did he see?

A tiny little mat!

Bhimasena, son of Vayu, was not a fool.

He placed his legs on the mat, his head and the rest of his body outside the mat, and went to sleep.

SCENE II

Duryodhana:

The first animal

The first enemy,

The first woman.

All are precious.

But when you kill the single wild boar, you became a man.

Bhima:

In my mind I feel love for Dhrtarashtra’s son; he the single wild boar – is the enemy of myself and a part of myself.

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D : The first drink is also very special

B : My friend is very wise. But at my age –?

D : If you are afraid---don't.
Drink is for those who are men.

B: I don't want to loose Duryodhana

D : Your brother Yudhishtra-- is not brave, nor is he courages--
You are more capable.

B: !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

D : Balarama is going to teach me the Gadha.

B : Balarama is my mother's brother's son.

D : Do you know who is the strongest king ?

B : Jarasandha !

D : No my father Dhritarashtra.
He has the strength of ten thousand masti elephants.
I will get that strength.

B : My father Vayudeva is strength.
I will grow into that

D : Do you believe these stories ?

B : Don't laugh!
I am Bhimasena!
Son of Vayu

D : For Yudhishtra – Dharma
For Bhima – Vayu
For Arjuna - Indra
[Beat]
Your mother--
Could she find no better stories?

B: {gasp}Duryodhana poisoned me.
He tried to drown me
Achindeva!
When will I offer you my Bali?

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SCENE III

Arjuna/Brhanalla :

I love Bhima
One day he killed an animal
One day I killed an animal
He killed a single wild boar
I killed a deer
He killed after a game of hunt.
I killed during the game of hunt.
He killed in self – defense.

Arjuna : (sings & dances)

Hey ! Duryodhana
Don't play with Bhima!
He has come back from the Nagas
From the Nagas he has returned
He is my brother
He is our strength
Returned from the Nagas
With the strength of ten thousand masti – elephants.
To protect his family
To protect his friends
To protect his people
He killed :

Hidimba
Baga
Jaradsanda
Shukradeva
Satyan,
Ugran,
Virabanu,
Bhiman,
Bhimarata;
Sulucmhanana
Anga,
Kurnevadi,
Dirgalocmhanan
Vrindaragan
Anhayan,
Rudrakarmav
Durjaynan
Durumgan,
Cmhitran,

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Upacmhitran,
Chitrakdshan,
Charucmhitran,
Dsharadsavan,
Chitrayndan
Chitraveruman,
Dshatramujayou
Dsnatrusahu,
Bhanusena
Dudshasanan
Duryodhanan

Bhimasena is the strongest man on earth

The actor tells a story :

One day Duryodhana and Bhimasena quarreled more bitterly than usual about who was the strongest man on earth. They fought with their tongues, they fought with their fists, they hit each other and traveled all over the world quarreling in this way.

At some point they came across a poor woman hurrying to the paddy fields to give her husband his lunch. They stopped her, and said : “Tell us please is Bhimasena stronger than Duryodhana? Or is Duryodhana stronger than Bhimasena ? For whoever is stronger has to be the strongest man in the whole world “.

As she was in a hurry the woman asked Bhimasena and Duryodhana to climb onto her hand and go with her to the fields and wait till she had finished her work there. Then on her journey home she would tell them who was the strongest man in the whole world.

So the two climbed onto her palm. But as they could not stay long together without fighting – they soon started giving each other blows. Bhimasena pulled out his gadha, and soon there was a war on the poor woman’s hand.

In the meantime the woman hurried to the fields, fed her husband, and while he was eating she did his job. Then she discussed the problems of the day with him and worked out solutions, packed her food basket and hurried home to feed the cows and to teach her children.

On the way her attention was drawn towards Duryodhana and Bhima still on her palm. They wanted her to answer their question: Who is the strongest man in the whole world?

The woman was very angry. She scolded them: “You two are still busy with that old problem! You have found nothing better do ? I have no time for you. Get off my hand – and let me get on with Life!”

And they stepped off her hand and continued to fight.

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SCENE IV

The fight between Duryodhana and Bhima. Duryodhana dies

SCENE V

Bhima: I am the strongest man in the world
I am the strongest man in the whole world.

Krishna said to me “You killed all the sons of Dhritarashtra
Now you must kill Duryodhana”

And I killed him.

Yudhishtira: Manda!
That was unfair
That is not dharma
Remember he is a king.

B : But I won the war for my brothers!
The night I killed Duryodhana – I felt a big emptiness in my mind.
The enemy who made me
The enemy who made me stronger
My first enemy
Was gone
I was very happy.
{ *Funeral dance* }

In my mind I feel love for Dhritarashtra’s son.
I won the war for the kingdom.
He won the war inside himself.
I am still Manda
I am still Vrigodara.

Arjuna does not sleep at night – because he killed Karna
I too cannot sleep at night
Because Ashwathama still runs in the forest
Because Ashwathama still runs in the forest
Because Ashwathama still runs in the forest

I must kill my next enemy
I must prepare for the next war
I must always be the strongest man on earth
That is my dharma.

The actor tells a story :

Many years after the war Bhimasena wanted to meet Vidura.
But Vidura had hidden himself away in a forest
And every time Bhima tried to meet him he would escape into a more secret and
mysterious part of the forest.

This game of hide and seek went on for a long time.
And the desire within Bhimasena grew stronger and stronger.
Then one day Bhima went deep into the forest
Very deep
Into the heart of the forest
There--
In a clearing
Naked and still
Stood Vidura against a tree.

The two looked at each other silently for a long time.
The man of Knowledge and the man of Power
Then Bhima stepped forward, and Vidura embraced him.
The man of Power fainted.

SCENE VI

Bhima : The Mahaprashtana.
In heaven, the second chair will remain empty,
I am not Jeetaindriya.
I do not have a right to sit on that chair
My eyes are turned to the green valley of the earth in front of me.
My eyes are looking for the wild boar inside the forest.
My eyes are looking for the wilds boar inside myself.

I must offer now the Bali of the wild boar.

No I am not Jeetaindriya
I am not yet ready for the Mahaprastana

The sutas say – stories never end!

THE END

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