



KRISHNA and OUTSOURCING

August 15, 2017

Yesterday was Janmashtami and today is its aftermath, the really high decibel and road-blocking festival of Dahi Handi and like any good writer I have to write an article about this event and still somehow connect it to mutual funds while all the time try and keep the note light and funny. I say all this at the outset so that you my dear reader, know the enormity of the task that I have set myself.

Actions speak louder than words they say. Everyone knows the words of Shri Krishna, which is immortalized in the holy book the Bhagvad Gita. But there are two acts of Lord Krishna which speak volumes.

Krishna had just killed his uncle Kamsa and returned the kingdom to Kamsa's father King Ugrasena when news came that Jarasandha, Kamsa's father-in-law and the King of Magadha, who had one singular ambition of becoming the King of Kings had set out with his huge army to destroy Mathura and avenge the death of his son-in-law.

Krishna knew that the provinces of Mathura were no match for Jarasandha's army and so he convinced the people to leave Mathura and march with him to the other end of the peninsula to Dwarka where they could be safe and prosper by trading. This long retreat was an act of great wisdom and courage because knowing which battle NOT to fight is the key in deciding the overall destiny of any kingdom. For this act of running away from a battle Shri Krishna is also called Ranchoddas- the one who runs away from a battle.

But Shri Krishna never lost sight of the fact that Jarasandha was a thorn in his side. He knew that his dream of a strong unified country would never come to fruition until his arch enemy Jarasandha was alive. He also knew that none of the current kingdoms could take on Jarasandha in a war. He therefore took Arjuna and Bheema to Magadha and then dressed as ordinary Brahmins somehow managed to inveigle themselves into Jarasandha's court. There he openly challenged Jarasandha to a wrestling bout with any one of the three of them.

Of course Jarasandha did exactly what Krishna expected. With his honor challenged, Jarasandha could not but pick Bheema because both Arjuna and Krishna looked puny against the mighty Jarasandha. So the one on one fight ensued between Jarasandha and Bheema and finally Bheema managed to kill Jarasandha.

So where does investments and mutual funds come into the picture? Well it does. First, by his act of leaving a potential war, Krishna shows the world the importance of a stop loss-the importance of knowing when to retreat and how to live to fight another day. This is an incredibly important lesson to learn for anyone aspiring to have a long and healthy investment life.



By his second act of taking Bheema and Arjuna with him to fight Jarasandha, Krishna highlights the importance of hiring an expert to do your job. Krishna, almost never fought his own fights. He always hired an expert-especially in the later part of his life. In the case of our investments, the Mutual Fund Manager is the expert. The Fund Manager employs a team of analysts and has a large bank of brokers to help him in his task of choosing the best companies to invest in. Clearly he is better equipped than us to invest in stocks or bonds. So why not invest in Mutual Funds-in other words why not hire a Fund Manager to do our investments in equities and bonds rather than do it ourselves by investing in equities directly.

There is no way, an ordinary investor like ourselves can beat what an expert like a Fund Manager can do with our investments. People learn a lot of things from Krishna's words in Bhagvad Gita. But the key lesson of outsourcing to the expert is not in his words but in his deeds of hiring the Pandavas in general and Bheema in particular for many of his acts. Why not learn from Lord Krishna's deeds and actually stop investing in equities directly and instead outsource this by hiring a MF fund manager by buying into his Mutual Fund?

You, my dear reader, you have actually an advantage. I offer you a bargain!!! You get to hire TWO experts for the price of ONE. By buying MFs through me you get my expert advice on which MF to buy. So actually by hiring me, you get to hire not just me but through me hire the MF manager most suitable for your battles or purposes in investments!

I know that after reading this note, you will be itching to call me and talk to me. If you suddenly find yourself thinking whether you should disturb me on a holiday, then let me set your troubled mind to rest! I am always ready to hear from any potential investor and a friend on a holiday. You can compensate for disturbing me by giving me a good cup of coffee when we next meet!!! Good, by the way, is the operating word here!

Thanks and happy dialing!

P.S

Krishna and the Game of Thrones

This part is for those who want to know more about Jarasandha. He was winning the battle against Bheema. Then Krishna picks up a twig and cleaves it into two-not breaks it but cleaves it. Bheema understands the significance and in an act of unspeakable horror, actually throws Jarasandha down and using the entire strength of his body tears Jarasandha's entire torso into two.

Game of Thrones (I am a fan, I admit) has a lot of deaths including the beautifully shot killing of Prince Oberin by Mountain where the Mountain simply crushes Oberin's skull with his bare hands. But none of the incredible killings in Game of Thrones matches to the killing of Jarasandha by Bheema. Maybe I should tell this to the GOT writers and they can incorporate it into GOT.



Secondly, do you realize, that until the death of Jarasandha, there was really no danger of the war between Pandavas and Kauravas? Because until Jarasandha existed the entire question of who ruled over Hastinapura was moot because Jarasandha was actually the emperor and he had sway over all the other kingdoms. Only when he died did the ruler of Hastinapura become important. Jarasandha's death allowed the ruler of Hastinapura to aspire to be the ruler of the entire landmass which later came to be known as Indian subcontinent.

So in effect, the death of Jarasandha set in motion the GAME of who ruled over Hastinapura—The Game of Thrones.

Can you imagine what a giving person I am? Even in the case of this note, I gave you two notes for the price of one!!!