

## *KEEPING THE WATERS STILL*

*It was the occasion of Draupadi's Swayamvara. King Drupad, her father, had set up a formidable challenge for the would-be suitors to win the hand of his peerless daughter. The candidates had to string a massive and exceptionally heavy bow and then shoot an arrow through a revolving wheel with multiple spokes at a fish that was fixed on the ceiling. And to top it all, the archer had to shoot the fish through the revolving wheel not by looking at it directly, but by seeing its reflection in a pool of water on the floor!*

*Krishna, the ever-dependable friend, was giving last minute instructions to Arjuna to carry out this near impossible feat. While listening to his friend's well-meaning advice, Arjuna with a tinge of irony asked Krishna: "If I have to do everything, what are you going to do to help me?"*

*Krishna responded: "I shall keep the waters still."*

*To achieve that most difficult task, Arjuna possessed all the qualities - super human skill, strength, concentration and focus. He had them all. But still it was not a guarantee for success because if there were ripples in the water, no matter how small, it would still have been sufficient to bring about failure. And keeping the "waters still" was a dimension that was beyond human ability. So too in human life we find that no matter what efforts we make to achieve a certain goal, sometimes we are met with failure. Because there are always some imponderables which are beyond human effort. Purushartha (human effort) is of course an essential ingredient for success, but we should not forget that ONLY human effort is NOT enough. We also require Divine intervention to take care of the imponderables. A Divine Grace to "keep the waters still."*