

SUMMARY OF SAUPTIKA PARVA

Sauptika parva contains 2 Upaparvas, 18 chapters and 803 slokas. Duryodhana was made to fall in the battle field. Asvatthama was very much distressed by seeing his wretched condition. Krpacharya made Asvatthama as commander in chief by following the orders of Duryodhana. Thereafter, the three warriors, Asvatthama, Krpacharya and Krtavarma started towards south and at the time of sunset, they reached the army's camp. Thereafter, being scared of their enemies, they hid in deep forest. Their bodies were hurt by weapons. In the meanwhile, having heard the roar of victorious Pandavas they became scared. They immediately ran to the east on their chariots. They were scorched with thirst. Their horses were also tired. Those, three who were sorrowful by the death of Duryodhana, stood there for some time.

Dhrtarashtra asked Sanjaya, 'What were Krtavarma, Krpacharya and Asvatthama doing when my son Duryodhana was killed disloyally.' Then Sanjaya replied, 'Those three warriors made their horses to drink water and then entered into deep forest. After finishing their bath and rituals (sandhyavandan) Krpacharya and Krtavarma slept as they were tired. But Asvatthama didn't get sleep. Thousands of crows were residing on that Banyan tree under which, these three warriors were taking rest. During that night, those crows were happily sleeping in their nests. Suddenly Asvatthama saw that an owl entered there and started killing the crows those were visible to it. Having seen the disloyal deed of that owl, Asvatthama decided to kill his enemies disloyally. He made awakened Krpacharya and Krtavarma who were sleeping and told them his decision that he would kill the sleeping Panchalas along with Pandavas. Having heard his decision, they both felt ashamed and could not even answer. Then Asvatthama said, 'valorous Duryodhana was killed by Pandavas. Everybody was destroyed in Kauravas' army. Only we three are left over.' Having heard thus, Krpacharya said, 'All the human beings are bound with two deeds namely fate and effort. One succeeds with the combination of both of them. Fate is stronger between these two. Human effort gets succeeded with the support of fate only. Duryodhana was greedy and was not far-sighted. He never heard the good words and fought with Pandavas. We too obtained disaster as we followed a sinner. When a person is unable to take a decision of good and bad then he should take the advice of his friends. So, we will ask the king Dhrtarashtra, Gandhari and Vidura about our duty.' Having heard the words of Krupacharya, Asvatthama fell into deep sorrow. Then he replied, 'Every human being has a different nature. People consider themselves as great and get satisfied and they blame others. One believes that whatever is done by one's intellect is correct and tries to succeed through that. As I was fallen in trouble I disclosed to both of you, the thought I got in my mind. I was born in a respectable Brahmin's clan. Even then as I am unfortunate, I follow the principles of Kshatriya. My father who was unique was killed. I will certainly take the revenge of his death. Having entered into their camp, I will kill the Panchalas, who will be sleeping with a peaceful mind in the night. I will even destroy the sons of Pandavas.'

Krpacharya said, 'O child! The thought of taking revenge has aroused in your mind. Nobody can stop you. You take rest tonight. Tomorrow morning we both will



accompany you in the battle. You will certainly kill the enemies. Asvatthama got angry by listening to the words of welfare from Krpacharya and said thus, 'One doesn't get sleep if one has any one of these qualities such as, anguish, anger, persistence on work and desire. But these four have fallen on me at once. How can I get sleep? I won't leave Dhrstadyumna and his supporters Panchalas, as they were the cause for my father's slay. Today I will kill the enemies before I sleep and then I will relax peacefully.' Then Krpacharya while convincing him spoke to Asvatthama thus, 'O child! Killing the people who are sleeping is against the discipline of Dharma. He, who does thus, will plunge into the ocean of hell. Till now no sin is seen in you. You win over your enemies tomorrow morning.' Then Asvatthama replied, 'O maternal uncle! Whatever you said is correct. But Pandavas have already crossed the limit of this Dharma. They killed my father deceitfully. Arjuna killed Bhishma by putting Shikhandi to the fore. Bhurisrava, who was following the vow of fasting, was killed by Satyaki in the battle field. In the battle of mace, Bhimasena killed Duryodhana disloyally. Thus, they all are sinners and disloyal people. I will not get sleep unless I kill them.' Having said thus, Asvatthama, the son of Drona, tied his horses and climbed his chariot and moved towards his enemies. Krpacharya and Krtavarma also followed his path. They all went to the camp of Pandavas and Panchalas. Everybody was sleeping there. Asvatthama went to the door steps of the camp and stood there. A fearful, wonderful, huge living being was there to protect the door steps. Being startled by seeing that, Asvatthama showered the rain of divine arrows. All his effort went in vain. All his weapons were over. The weaponless Asvatthama saw that wonderful scene and recollected the words of Krpacharya and became sad. He thought that he fell in a fearful trouble for trespassing Dharma. There was no other go except to rely upon the fate. Having thought thus, he praised lord Siva and went to his refuge. Thereafter, Lord Siva entered into his body and gave him a divine sword. The invisible demons ran away when they saw Asvatthama going towards the camp. When Asvatthama was entering inside the camp, Krpacharya and Krtavarma stood at the threshold. Then Asvatthama spoke to them as, 'I will enter inside the camp and behave like lord Yama there. You kill those if anyone escapes from me.' Having said thus, he entered inside the camp and killed Dhrshtadyumna and others. Having fulfilled his vow, Asvatthama who was satisfied returned out of the camp in the morning. He narrated all that had happened to Krpacharya and Krtavarma. Immediately all the three warriors went to Duryodhana to tell him this, if he is alive. After going there he saw the king Duryodhana who had a very low breathe. They became sorrowful on seeing the distressed condition of the king. Having praised him with a choked voice they lamented. Asvatthama thus spoke to Duryodhana, who was fainted as his thighs were broken, 'O king! If you are alive then listen to the words that are pleasing to your ears. Only seven are left over in Pandavas' team and we three are left over in Kauravas' team. They have five sons of Pandu, Srikrishna and Saatyaki with them. Krtavarma, Krpacharya and Myself are left in our side. When Duryodhana heard this happy news regained his energy and said thus, 'May you all be prosperous. May you all obtain happiness. We all shall meet again in the heaven.' Having said thus, he remained silent. Before he died he gave the three warriors permission to depart the place at the earliest. They went on their chariots towards the city. When Sanjaya



heard the news of Duryodhana's death from Drona's son, he became distressed and early in the morning he ran towards the city. He said to Dhrtarashtra, 'O king! I became very much sad, when your son has passed away to heaven. The divine vision that was given by Vyasa Maharshi is also disappeared.' When Dhrtarashtra heard the news of his son's death, he fell in a deep sorrow.

The charioteer of Dhrtadyumna narrated the destruction that had happened in the previous night to Yudhishtira. When Yudhishtira heard such a bad news he became distressed and fell on ground and lamented for his son. He sent Nakula to bring Draupadi there. Sorrowful Yudhishtira went to the battle field along with his friends. He lamented a lot by seeing the horrific situation over there. Yudhishtira consoled Draupadi, who was lamenting a lot. Draupadi said, 'I heard that Drona's son has a gem on his forehead, which he got along with his birth. Having killed that sinner in the battle field you bring that gem. I will see that. I will survive only after placing that gem on your head.' Bhimasena could not bear the lament of Draupadi. He just saw the sign of Asvatthama's chariot and moved towards that. Srikrishna explained the fickleness and cruelty of Asvatthama and thought to get his wheel of Sudarsana. Drona's son is angry, wicked, fickle and cruel. He even knows the weapon of Brahma. Hence, Bhimasena should be protected from him. Having said thus, Srikrishna took his weapons and climbed his chariot. Thereafter, Arjuna and Yudhishtira also climbed the same chariot. Those three best among the men went fast to Bhimasena. All of them reached the bank of river Bhagirathi. Bhimasena saw Asvatthama who was sitting with the sage Vyasa and others and ran towards him by taking his bow. After seeing him Asvatthama, with a desire to destroy all the Pandavas released the divine weapons. To avoid the weapons of Asvatthama, Arjuna used the weapon of Brahma. Sages Narada and Vyasa came there to appease the divine weapons those were used by both of them. To pacify both the warriors, the sages stood between those blazing weapons. Following the orders of the sage Vyasa, Arjuna stood between his weapons and took back his weapons. Sage Vyasa also requested Asvatthama too to take back his weapon. The sage said to him, 'O great warrior! You give the gem that you have on your head to these Pandavas. In return to that Pandavas will donate lives.' Then Asvatthama replied, 'I am unable to take back my weapons. I will release these on Pandavas' foetus.' Then sage Vyasa permitted him to release his weapons on Pandavas' foetus. Drona's son did the same. Having known this, Srikrishna became happy. He said to Drona's son thus, 'long ago, when Arjuna's daughter-in-law and daughter of Virat was staying in the city of Upaplavya, then a Brahmin saw her and said thus, 'O child! When the clan of Kauravas decline, then you will beget a son. Hence that child will be named as Parikshith, who stimulates the clan of Pandavas.' After hearing the words of Srikrishna, Asvatthama became angry and told that the weapon will fall only on the foetus of Uttara. Then Srikrishna said, 'a dead child will be born from Uttara's womb. Later he will obtain a long life. O mean among the men, with the blaze of the fire of your weapon'. After the hot exchange of these words Asvatthama gave the gem from his head to Pandavas and went to the forest. All the Pandavas, Srikrishna, Narada headed by the sage Vyasa went to Draupadi to show her the gem. As per Draupadi's desire, Yudhishtira placed it on his forehead. He further asked Srikrishna that how could Asvatthama get the strength to kill so



many warriors. Then Srikrishna narrated him the greatness of Mahadeva and told that Asvatthama was born with the blessings of Lord Shiva.

