

## ASVAMEDHIKAPARVA

This parva contains two sub-parvas called Aswamedhaparva and Anugithaparva. In the additional chapter of Anugithaparva, there is another sub-parva called Vaishnavdharmaparva. This has 4125 slokas altogether.

Dhrutarashtra offered libations with water to Bhishma and others who died in the battle. By making stand him in front, Dharmaraja came out of the water. At that time, Yudhishtira lost his control out of grief and fell on the ground. With the support of Srikrishna, Bhimasena held him up. By seeing the distressed condition of the king, all the Pandavas fell in the ocean of sorrow. While consoling Yudhishtira, Dhrutarashtra said, 'O the son of Kunthi! You have obtained victory as per the principles of Kshatriya. Do not lament. You don't have any reason to lament for. Instead, Gandhari and I should lament. I didn't follow the good that was said by Vidura. He foresaw and said that due to the misbehavior of Duryodhana the entire Kuru's clan would be destroyed. He further advised me to kill Duryodhana to protect the clan. He also instructed me to stop the incident related to the messenger. He suggested me to coronate you (Dharmaraja) for a virtuous rule. Though he said thus, I followed that wicked Duryodhana. I am facing its result now. We have lost hundred sons. No one is left over. I don't see any reason for your grief. Krishna also convinced Dharmaraja. He said, 'O Dharmaraja! Do not lament. You have listened to all the principles from Bhishma, Vyasa, Narada and others. O king! Leave the grief. People who were killed in the war cannot return back. You cannot see them.' Having listened to the words of Srikrishna, Yudhishtira said, 'O Govinda! I made to kill cruelly the grandfather Bhishma, Drona, Karna and other kinsmen. Hence I will never attain peace. Please give me permission to go to the forest.' Srikrishna once again convinced him.

The great sage Vyasa instructed him, 'O Dharmaraja! Being inspired by the Lord, human beings perform the good and bad. If you consider yourself as the cause for the battle of sinful deed, then I will tell you the remedy for that. Listen. Human beings can get rid of their sins through penance, sacrifice and donations. O king! You perform the sacrifices such as, Rajasuya, Aswamedha, Sarvamedha and Naramedha.' Having listened to the words of the great sage, Dharmaraja said, 'O great sage! I am helpless to donate as I don't have money.' After listening to his words, sage Vyasa narrated him the story of Marutth while giving him the ideas of collecting the money. A king named Marutth who was pious, built a sacrificial shed in the northern side of Himalayas near the mountain Meru and performed a sacrifice as per the rituals. He gave abundant money in the form of donation to Brahmins in that sacrifice. He made a treasure and saved the money that was remained after giving to Brahmins. O king! You collect that money and perform the sacrifice.' In the story of Marutth the praise of lord Mahadeva is also note-worthy.

Dharmaraja attain peace when he was convinced by Lord Krishna, great sage Vedavyas and others. When Yudhishtira finished the funeral of Bhishma and others, he entered into Hastinapur along with Dhrutarashtra. He was ruling the kingdom virtuously. When he accomplished the purpose of staying in Hastinapura, Lord



Srikrishna expressed his opinion to go to Dwaaraka. Though he didn't like, Arjuna accepted his opinion.

## ANUGITAPARVA

When Lord Srikrishna expressed his view to go to Dwaaraka, Arjun asked Srikrishna, 'O Madhava! I have lost all the knowledge that you have instructed at the time of war. My mind is enthusiastic to listen to those teachings once again. Hence, you once again narrate the subject of The Gita.' Then Srikrishna said, 'certainly you don't have concentration. Hence, you forgot that instruction. I don't like this. I can't repeat that instruction as it is. But, to get that knowledge, I will explain you an ancient history. You listen to all my words with a great concentration. Having said thus, he narrated the Gita. Since it was narrated on the lines following the Gita, it was called as Anugita. It contains thirty-six chapters. Through the conversation of Siddha, Maharshi and Kaashyapa, he explained about the birth of individual soul, deeds of Dharma, their result and the methods to cross the world. Through the conversation of the teacher and this disciple, he explained the easy way to obtain salvation. He explained the importance of Knowledge, answered by a Brahmin to his wife. It is called as the Brahmana Gita. Srikrishna further narrated, 'The Brahmin said to his wife, 'No one can stay in this world for a moment without doing any action. Those who leave the path of knowledge and follow the path of action will obtain only greed through the action. The scholars, who have won over their senses, will meditate upon the Supreme, The Eternal Brahman through the path of Yoga. Through that only the five winds such as Praana and Apaana will appear. Later, they merge into him only.' Further the Brahmin said to his wife, 'It's not that I don't follow the path of action. I perform the sacrifice the ten senses in the form of sacrificer, ten fires in the form of gods, ten objects in the form of clarified butter and sacrificial sticks. Thus a sacrifice is performed always in my body.' In this context the Brahmin narrated the method of sacrifice of the sacrificers such as nose, eyes and others. He also narrated the conversation of the five winds of the life such as Praana, Apaana and others. He also explained the greatness of all these. He mentioned the destruction of Kshatriya's clan by Parasurama. He explained the Dhyana Yoga of a sage called Alarka and explained how Parasurama was convinced by the grandfathers and how he accomplished the unattainable by performing a terrific penance. Through the conversation of Dharma that was in the form of Brahmin and the king Janaka, he instructed to abandon attachment.

Srikrishna himself instructed Arjuna the principle of Salvation. He said the actions of the Principle of Brilliance (Sattvaguna), the Principle of Passion (Rajoguna) and the Principle of Sloth (Tamoguna) and the result of knowing them. He explained the reality of the Highest or the Supreme Being and instructed the path of Salvation. He explained the duties of four ashramas i.e. Brahmacharya, Gaarhasthya, Vaanaprastha and Sanyaasa. Srikrishna said that an intellectual person will cut the body of tree with the Knowledge of Reality of sword and obtain Salvation by getting relieved from the bondage. Through the conversation of the sage and Brahma, he explains the form of Dharma and explains the method of



attaining the Eternal Supreme. Having praised the path of Knowledge, Srikrishna concluded the Anugita.

Srikrishna went to Hastinapur along with Arjuna. After taking the permission from Yudhishtira, Lord Srikrishna made Subhadra to sit on his chariot, and started towards Dwaraka. On the way, he visited a sage called Uttanka. When he enquired about the welfare of Kauravas and Pandavas, Srikrishna told him about the destruction of Kauravas in the war. Having listened to this, the sage became angry and was about to curse. Srikrishna convinced him by explaining him the fact. By the request of the sage, Srikrishna showed him the universal form and gave him the boon of obtaining water in a desert. In this context, the education of Uttanka, his devotion towards his preceptor, his marriage with the preceptor's daughter, followed by the order of preceptor's wife getting the divine ear-rings were also explained.

After reaching Dwaraka he narrated the incident of war to his father. When Subhadra insisted, he even narrated about the slay of Abhimanyu. Vasudeva and other Yadavas offered libations to Abhimanyu.

Sage Vyasa pacified Arjuna and ordered Yudhishtira to perform the sacrifice named Ashwamedha and disappeared from there. Following the orders of the sage, Yudhishtira decided to perform the sacrifice and went to Himalaya to collect the wealth. Having offered prayers to Lord Shiva, he got the wealth by digging the treasure. To participate in the sacrifice, Srikrishna also came to Hastinapur along with the clan of Vrushni. Uttara begot a dead child as he was tormented by the weapon of Brahma. With the request of Kunthi, Srikrishna gave him the life and named him Parikshith.

Following the orders of Lord Srikrishna and sage Vyasa, the sacrifice was started. Arjuna was appointed to protect the sacrificial horse; Bhimasena and Nakula were appointed to protect the kingdom and the city and Sahadeva to take care of the family. Arjuna followed the sacrificial horse along with his army. He terribly fought with Trigartas. At the end of the battle, Arjuna defeated them. Thus, while wandering with that sacrificial horse, Arjuna reached the kingdom of Manipur. Having heard the news of his father's arrival, Babruvaahana, son of Chitraangadaa and Arjuna, with a view to see him, moved out of the city by taking the wealth. But followed by the principles of Kshatriya, Arjun provoked him to fight. Uloopi, the step-mother of Babruvaahana, encouraged him to fight with his father. There was a terrific fight between those two. Arjuna was very much hurt by the arrows that were shot by his son and having fainted, he fell on the ground. By seeing the distressed condition of her husband and son, Chitraangada fell on the ground, while lamenting. At last, with the effort of Uloopi, Arjuna could regain his strength by a gem called Sanjeevini. When Arjuna asked the reason for his failure, Uloopi explained him the reason of his failure. Uloopi and Chitraangada, along with Babruvaahana attended the sacrifice of Aswamedha. The sacrifice of Dharmaraja was successfully completed. At that juncture, a sudden surprise took place. When the sacrifice was completed a mongoose appeared there. He spoke in human language, 'O king! Your sacrifice doesn't even equal to a fistful of donation of flour that was offered by a generous Brahmin who stays at Kurukshetra.' In this context the story of Brahmin that was explained by the Mongoose was depicted. About the non-violence sacrifice and Dharma was also mentioned.



Vaishnavdharmaparva is found in the additional chapter. It consists of twenty-one chapters. When Ashwamedha sacrifice was performed, Yudhishtira expressed his desire to Srikrishna to explain him the principles of Vaishnavas. By listening to the principles of Lord from Srikrishna, the sages and Pandavas were delighted. Every body saluted Srikrishna by bowing their heads. Having delighted, all the sages went happily to their places. Lord Srikrishna also blessed Pandavas and went to Dwaaraka.

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