

## Mahaprasthana Parva Chapters 1-3

### Chapter 1

#### *Offering libations of water to the kinsmen of the Vrishni Race and with the permission of the people setting for the Final Departure*

After the thrashing scuffle of Vrishnis and Andhakas both the races were reduced to a few. This news reached Yudhisthira. He discussed with Arjuna to set for the Final Departure. Arjuna approving the influence of the Time over the mortal world conveyed the decision of his eldest brother to all the other brothers. They too agreed with their brother.

Yudhisthira called upon Yuyutsu, the Vaisya son of Dhrtarashtra, and appointed him as the care taker of the Kuru kingdom. After the coronation Parikshit mounted the throne as the new king of Kurus. Vajra, one of the sons of Krishna became the king of the few people of Yadu race. Libations were offered to Sri Krishna, Balarama, Vasudeva and other kinsmen of Yadu race with great respect. On this occasion the great sages like Krishna Dvaipayana, Narada, Markandeya, Bharadvaja, Yajnavalkya and others were respectfully invited for taking food. Many valuable gems, chariots and other kinds of gifts were given to them. Kripa was appointed as the royal preceptor and requested him to take accept all the people of Kuru kingdom along with Parikshit as his disciples.

Then having removed all royal ornaments and attire Yudhisthira and his brothers along with Draupadi put on bark garments performed the final sacrificial rites and dropped the fires in the river waters. In the presence of all the subjects they set for their Final Departure. The new king, his subjects, the royal men and all others could neither stop the Pandavas nor the flood of tears. While all were grief stricken Pandavas continued their journey.

Yudhisthira was in the fore front of all his brothers. Bhima followed him. Next to them was Arjuna followed by Nakula and Sahadeva. At the end of them all was Draupadi. At the tail end a dog was also along with them through their journey. Being fond of the gems and jewels bedecked on the Gandiva bow and the two divine quivers Arjuna was still carrying them. On their way he was advised by the Fire God to drop them in the waters to submit them back to Varuna. He did accordingly. Then Pandavas proceeded towards South. In the process they covered the northern shore of the ocean, the south west region and the western region. They saw the city of Dwaraka submerged in the sea waters.

### Chapter 2



***The gradual fall of Draupadi, Sahadeva, Nakula, Arjuna and Bhima and the cause for their fall was explained there on***

When they reached the Himalayan plains in the North covering the path with their yogic power first of them all Draupadi (Yajnaseni) had her final fall having lost her yogic strength. Yudhisthira explained the reason for her fall that she was more attracted to Arjuna of all her five husbands though she was by all other respects very pious and righteous. After a little journey when Sahadeva fell the reason was revealed that his slight pride of his intellectual rank made him to fall in spite of his serving mind and reverence to the elders. Out of his grief for the fallen two, Nakula fell on the ground after some distance. As explained by the king the reason for his fall was his smugness for his extraordinary handsome appearance in spite of all his other virtues. Then it was the turn of Arjuna to fall. Bhima could not control his grief on seeing Arjuna and asked the king to tell the reason for his fall. His conceitedness that he had the ability to destroy all the enemies within a day made him to fall as he could not do it practically. Because of his self boasting and devouring nature Bhima also had his final fall. Yudhisthira in isolation but with the dog after him continued his ceaseless journey.

**Chapter 3**

***The conversation of Yudhisthira with Indra, Dharma and other gods, his firm mindedness to follow the path of dharma and his entry into the Heaven with mortal body***

Then Indra came there filling all the directions with divine sound and asked Yudhisthira to ascend the chariot of Indra with mortal body to set his journey to the Heaven. Yudhisthira showed him his fallen brothers and Draupadi and said that he alone could not come to Heaven unless his brothers and Draupadi also were taken along with. He further added that the dog which had been following also should be taken to the Heaven. Indra assured him that all his four brothers and Draupadi had already reached Heaven. But he suggested Yudhisthira to leave the dog in this mortal world itself saying that procuring Heaven was not an easy thing for all. Yet Yudhisthira's mind was firm in taking the dog with him. He further added that any being if strongly desirous of getting one's help that being should not be neglected. After a long conversation of both of them, the god of Dharma who was till then in the guise of the dog appeared before him in his own form, was pleased with his son's behaviour and praised him in many ways. He reminded him the incident of Yaksha prasnas where Yudhisthira very righteously chose Nakula instead of Bhima and Arjuna. All the gods were very much happy with the behaviour of the king and invited him to be seated him. Among the team of those gods there were Indra, Dharma, Vayu, Twin gods aswins, maruts and divine sages. All of them followed him in their respective aerial cars. With a great splendor having mounted the divine chariot Yudhisthira travelled to the Heaven through the celestial path. The divine sage Narada in an inviting voice said appreciating





him that Yudhisthira surpassed all other kings with his fame by reaching the Heaven with his mortal body while all others could reach heaven only after leaving their mortal bodies. Then Yudhisthira expressed his wish stay with his brothers and Draupadi wherever they might be either in the auspicious region or in the inauspicious region. Indra tried to convince him and said that because of his mortal body he was not devoid of the human possessiveness. He suggested him to see the dwellers of the Heaven who are passive towards both affection and envy. Yet Yudhisthira refused to heed to the advice of Indra and would like to stay with his brothers and Draupadi only.

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