

Svargarohana Parva

1-5 chapters

Chapter 1

Yudhisthira saw Duryodhana in the Heaven

While Yudhisthira was in the Heaven he saw Duryodhana in an elevated seat in bright attire with all ornaments. He was as bright as the Sun. The holy gods and sadhyas were around him. Yudhisthira was displeased with this event and said that he was not interested the comforts at Heaven along with Duryodhana. He further added that it was for his sake all the relatives and friends were all killed in the great war. It was because of him Draupadi in the presence of all noble people was utterly insulted in the royal assembly. Hence he asserted that he wouldn't like to stay in the heaven where Duryodhana was enjoying. Then the sage Narada instructed him that the stay in the heaven eradicates all kinds of enmity. Duryodhana attained heaven because of his death in the battle field. It was also said by the sage that Yudhisthira and all other chief warriors of the Kurukshetra battle reached heaven as all of them were dead in the battle. But to the surprise of Yudhisthira he could not see the great warriors like Karna, Dhristadyumna, Satyaki, The two kings Virata and Drupada, Dhristaketu, Sikhandi, the sons of Draupadi, Abhimanyu and others in heaven. He expressed his strong desire to see all of them and his four dearest brothers Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula and Sahadeva.

Chapter 2

Yudhisthira's visit to the Hell and his decision to dwell in there

Since the king wanted to see elder brother Karna and others a messenger from the heaven took him to a place which was very dark, inauspicious, inapproachable and marshy being covered with waste material like hair, blood and other impure elements. The environment was very terrifying. Evil spirits were busily moving here and there. It was emitting bad smell. It was the Hell, the place of sinners. There some were iron-mouthed. Some were encircled by crows, eagles and other wild birds. Some of them lost their limbs. Blood was oozing from the bodies of some of them. They were all targeted to severe physical punishment. There he saw a hot water river at highly boiling temperature and the garden of sharp edged swords. Ydhisthira got fainted being unbearable with the stinking bad smell of that place. There he heard the pitiable cries of Karna, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula, Sahadeva, Draupadi and others who were seeking the help of Yudhisthira to rescue them from that misery. He was not able to bear with the situation. He thought that it was injustice to provide a place to the sinful Duryodhana in the heaven and the pious people Karna and others in the hell. Since they could get some solace there in the presence of him he decided to dwell in the hell along with his brothers and kinsmen.



Chapter 3

Attempt of Indra and the God of Dharma to convince Yudhisthira

When the king spent a span of Muhurtha there in the hell, Indra and Yama, the king of Dharma, came there along with all other gods. By their mere presence the darkness in the hell was dispelled. All the sinners were free from all pains. The breezes were very cool and pleasing. The pious and fragrant odor pervaded everywhere. Then Yama and Indra told him that every king and royal person has to visit hell. Moreover whoever commits sins and virtues will attain both hell and heaven. If a person commits more sins and less virtuous deeds he first enjoys heaven then reaches hell. If a person does more virtuous deeds and commits a few sins he first visits hell and then goes to heaven. According to this principle Pandavas due to their few sinful deeds committed knowingly or unknowingly first reached the hell. Even Yudhisthira visited the hell because of this reason. Now by the advent of Yudhisthira the sins of Pandavas and other virtuous heroes were removed and it was assured that they would reach heaven soon along with him. Both the gods further said that the king could enjoy the comforts of the heaven hence forth. By the advice of those gods the king took a holy dip in the Divine River Celestial Ganges. He abandoned the mortal body and assumed the divine one. Along with his mortal body all human feelings such as enmity and envy also left him. He was surrounded by divine sages, gods and other celestial beings.

Chapter 4

Meeting Sri Krishna, Arjuna and others in the Divine world

There he saw the splendid heroes Lord Sri Krishna with his divine Conch and Sudarsana in his hands and Arjuna serving Sri Krishna. At another place he met Karna, the great warrior who was shining with brilliance equal to that of the Sun god. Bhima was being served by the teams of Maruts elsewhere. Nakula and Sahadeva were seen in the region of Aswins. Panchali, the Riches of the Heaven, somewhere else appeared emitting great radiance. There he saw five Gandharvas who attained birth as the five sons of Draupadi. Similarly all other warriors of the great races of Vrishnis, Andhakas and Kurus were also found among the teams different divine clans such as Sadhyas, Maruts, Visvedevas, Yakshas and others. Abhimanyu was seen along with the Moon. Bhishma was seen encircled by Vasus. Drona was sitting by the side of Brhaspati. Thus the divine world was filled with all important kings and warriors of the Mahabharata war.

Chapter 5

The End of The Mahabharata



At the end as narrated by Vaisampayana to the king Janamejaya all the warriors of both Kauravas and Pandavas went to their respective sources in the following manner. Bhishma, with great brilliance, joined the Vasus. Drona merged in the splendor of Brhaspati. Kritavarma went to the world of Maruts. The Splendor of Pradyumna entered into the body of Sanatkumara. Dhrtarastra and Gandhari went to the region of Kubera. The king Pandu and his wives went to the abode of Mahendra. Virata, Drupada, Dhrshtaketu, Nisatha, Akrura, Samba, Bhanu, Kampa, Viduratha, Bhurishrava, Shalya, Kamsa, Ugrasena, Vasudeva, Uttara and others went to the region of Vishvedevas.

Abhimanyu went to the world of Moon. Karna went to the region of th Sun. Sakuni entred into the body of Dvapara age. Dhrishtadyмна was merged into the body of the God of Fire. Yudhisthira reached the abode of Dharma. Balarama went to the Patala region the kingdom of Ananta. The splendor of Sri Krishna merged in the form of the Divine Sage Narayana. The sixteen thousand wives of Srikrishna merged in the river Saraswati. Thus all the other warriors who helped Pandavas and Kaurvas went to their respective regions of Yakshas, Gandharvas, Demons and Gods.

Thus the story of Kauravas and Pandavas was completed as per the narration of Vaisampayana to the King Janamejaya.

Thus the encyclopedic work the Mahabharata is abundantly informative of all aspects of Dharma (Righteousness), Artha (Wealth), Kama (Desire) and Moksha (Salvation). The recital of this Grand Epic bestows all kinds of auspicious yields upon the devotees.

