

## SUMMARY OF SALYA PARVA

There are 3 Uparvas, 65 chapters and 3658 slokas in this Parva.

When Karna was killed by Arjuna, Duryodhana was immersed in deep sorrow of ocean. All the rest of the kings got high disappointment and despair. They reached their respective camps. Having believed in destiny and fortune, Duryodhana strongly decided to continue to fight. So, he marched again to battle. There he saw the great loss of his own army. The chariots of the great warriors were broken. The soldiers were killed along with their vehicles and elephants. There were no whereabouts of a number of kings. Having seen all this, Duryodhana's mind was immersed in sorrow. After seeing him thus, Kripacharya got sympathy on him. Having seen his distressed condition, he explained him thus, 'In a battle field it is good to be either killed by an enemy or to kill an enemy. It is a big sin to flee from the battle field. Bhishma, Drona and your son Lakshmana kumara are no more. It seems to be impossible to win over enemies. Hence, it would be better if you get surrender to Yudhishtira and obtain your kingdom. Yudhishtira is very much sympathetic. He can establish you in the kingdom.' Duryodhana did not like these words of Kripacharya. He replied, 'As a person nearing to death does not like a medicine, I too did not like your words. We have deceived Yudhishtira. Having won in the dice game, we made them poor. How can they believe us in this condition? When Srikrishna came to me as a messenger, I deceived him. How can he now trust my words? Draupadi has lamented a lot when she was forcefully brought to the court. We have grabbed the kingdom too, from Pandavas. How can they forget our behavior? We all have become the accused by killing Abhimanyu. Hence, they cannot forgive us. So, this is not a time for treaty. It is better to fight in a right way. If one has a good behavior, if one never flees away from the battle field and if one makes his vow true, then certainly one will obtain a place in heaven. Whoever sacrifices lives in the battle field will certainly obtain regards from ancestors and gods. Great warriors will sacrifice their lives in the battle field and get established in the world of Indra. Having killed my brothers and grandfathers, if I protect myself, the world will certainly blame me. What is the use of that kingdom that is obtained by falling on the feet of Yudhishtira? Instead, it is better to obtain heaven through the battle.' Having heard the words of Duryodhana, all the royal warriors honored and thanked him. Having left the sorrow of defeat, they all decided to show their valor.

Having assembled together, all the warriors suggested Duryodhana to appoint some one as a commander-in-chief to fight with the enemies. Asvatthama suggested, 'Salya can become the commander-in chief as he is endowed with good virtues, and he is handsome, brilliant, famous and prosperous. Having left his own nephews, he fought in support of you. Salya is as equal as Karthikeya with his abundant army.' Duryodhana said, while requesting him, 'If you become the commander in chief of our great warriors, weak minded Pandavas and Panchalas along with their ministers, will certainly become workless.' Having accepted Duryodhana's request, Salya said, 'O king! I am ready to fulfill all that you expect from me. My life, kingdom, wealth and everything is only to please you.' When he said thus, Duryodhana crowned him



as commander in chief by following the traditional rituals. When he was crowned the army loudly made a roar of a lion and made drum beats. Salya took a vow that he would either kill all the Panchalas along with Pandavas or he himself would die in the battle and obtain heaven. He further said, ‘ Let today all the Pandavas, Srikrishna, Satyaki, warriors of Panchala and Chedi, all the sons of Draupadi, Dhrushtadyumna and Sikhandi see my valor and strength of my bow, directly. Today I will make Pandavas flee to all the four sides. I will show more valor than Dronacharya, Bhishma and Karna. Daringly, I will wander in the battle field.’ When Salya was made commander in chief Pandavas were worried. Lord Srikrishna said to Yudhishtira, ‘O king! Though I gave a thought, I don’t find a warrior, who is like a lion. No one, other than you can really fight with Salya. Including gods, no one can really kill that fierce Salya today. You kill Salya, by keeping the duty of Kshatriya in mind.’ When Srikrishna said thus, Yudhishtira got ready to battle and a terrific fight started between the two armies. All the Soldiers, who were fighting on foot, chariots, horses, elephants, while showing their valor, attacked each other severely. The sounds made by horses, hubbub of soldiers fighting on foot, wheels of chariots, roar of elephants, drum beats and blow of conches made the earth appeared like a thud of thunderbolt. When the heads that were tainted with blood have fallen on the earth, it was appearing so graceful, as if it were spread with a golden blanket.

Meanwhile Nakula attacked Chitrasena, the son of Karna. Both the warriors, who were bearing wonderful arrows, attacked each other like the clouds that came from northern and southern sides and showered flow of arrows on each other. Nakula’s bow was cut and his horses were died because of Chitrasena’s arrows. Nakula got down like a lion with his sword and shield, went near the chariot of Chitrasena and cut his crowned head. Thereafter, Satyasena and Susena who were two brothers of Chitrasena attacked Nakula with their shower of arrows. Nakula first killed thier horses and later he cut their bows. Nakula had first pierced the chest of Satyasena. Having seen his brother lifeless, Sushena got distressed and started showering arrows on Nakula. Immediately, he cut the head of Sushena with his sharp arrows and made his body to fall on the earth. Thus the battle took terrific form between the two armies. Thereafter, Salya and Bhimsena took their maces in their hands and while roaring like bulls, started giving a crafty maneuver to each other. Moving around in a circular orb, in the art of crafty maneuver and in mace-attack, they both were appearing like lions. When the king of Madra attacked Bhima with his mace, flakes of fire blazed. Similarly, when Bhima was attacking Salya with his mace, fire blazed. Thereafter, Salya had a great fight with Yudhishtira. Later, Duryodhana killed Chekitana from Pandavas’ army and Yudhishtira killed Chandrasena and Drumasena from Kauravas’ army. Thereafter, Salya spread fully in the battle field. He was roaring like a lion in front of Yudhishtira. The warriors of Pandavas could not move ahead due to the shower of Salya’s arrows. Pandavas went behind and started fighting else where. Later, fight between Asvatthama and Arjuna started, where, Suratha, a great warrior of Panchala, was killed by Asvatthama. Further, a terrific fight took place between Duryodana and Drshtadyumna, Arjuna and Asvatthama, Salya and Nakula and Satyaki. Similarly, a terrific fight took place between Yudhishtira and Salya, king of Madra. At that juncture, Yudhishtira’s



horses and charioteer were also killed. Only his chariot was left over. Having climbed that, he gave a thought to attack Salya with Sakthi and to kill him with that weapon. He forcefully released on him, the weapon Sakti, which was lustrous, as it was adorned with the best gems. Visvakarma made that weapon for lord Siva. It can kill even the creatures that live in water, earth and space. The strength of that weapon has increased due to strength and effort. It was released towards Salya by chanting the hymns. It went and pierced the vital parts of Salya. Having pierced his broad and dazzling chest it fell on the ground. When that weapon pierced the chest of Salya, his weapons were scattered and he remained silent forever. When Salya died, having climbed the chariot, his brother attacked Yudhishtira. Yudhishtira attacked him with his arrows and cut his bow and flag. Later, he had cut his head too. Thereafter, Krtavarma, a warrior of Kauravas' team attacked Yudhishtira. Then Yudhishtira killed his horses. When Asvatthama found that Krtavarma was falling in trouble he took him far away.

Thereafter, Salva, the best among the kings of Kauravas attacked Pandavas. To face him, Dhrshtadyumna marched ahead on an elephant. Salva attacked on his elephant. The huge elephant started vomiting blood from its mouth and fell down. Meanwhile, Satyaki, a famous warrior from Sibi clan, cut Salva's head with a sharp sword. Thereafter, Satyaki killed Kshemadurti, a warrior from Kauravas army.

When the warriors of Kauravas army were defeated, Sakuni started a deceitful fight. But, he had to face the defeat. The battle continued thus. Bhimasena killed the eleven brothers of Duryodhana, namely, Durmarshana, Srutaantha, Jaitra, Bhooribala, Ravi, Jayatsena, Sujata, Durvishah, Satrunaasha, Durvimochana and Dushpradharsha.

Susarma, king of Trigatha, an important warrior from Kauravas' army, came down to battle field and fought with Arjuna. King of Trigatha, along with his warriors, started covering the sky with the rain of his arrows. Arjuna targeted him with an arrow that is equal to noose of Yama and killed him.

A battle was started between Sakuni and Sahadeva. The arrows that were released by Sahadeva scattered the sky like a team of locust. Ulooka was also there along with Sakuni. They were attacking each other with their sharp arrows. With the shoulders of the warriors, that were cut and that were appearing like the trunks of elephants and with many flesh eating beasts, the earth became terrific. Thus, in this great battle, when Kauravas hardly had any soldiers, Pandavas were rejoicing by sending the remaining soldiers of Kauravas' army to the world of Yama. At that juncture, Sakuni, son of Subula attacked Sahadeva and hit him on his head. Having got distressed with that hurt, Sahadeva sat on his chariot. Having seen his brother in that condition, out of anger, the great warrior Bhimsena come to support him and attacked Sakuni. In the meanwhile, Sahadeva became normal and attacked Sakuni with his arrows and having killed his horses, he cut his bow into pieces. In a pretext to protect his father, Ulooka attacked Bhimasena and Sahadeva with his arrows. Then the valorous Sahadeva hit Ulook and cut his head.



Ulooka, who was killed by Sahadeva, fell down on the earth, by making Pandavas happy. Sakuni was grief-stricken by seeing the death of his son. Having taken a long breath, with his eyes filled with tears and after taking a big exhale, he fell in immense sorrow. Then, he attacked Sahadeva with his arrows. Sahadeva too, counter attacked him and having pierced his bow, he roared like a lion. He recollected the wicked deeds done by Sakuni in the game of dice. Thereafter, he took a splendid arrow that was adorned with gold and having released it on Sakuni, it cut his head. As a result, Sakuni fell on earth without life.

Duryodhana was left over only with the warriors like Asvatthama, Krtavarma and Kripacharya. In this situation, Duryodhana thought himself as helpless and in view to protect his life in this sympathetic condition, he entered into a lake which is full of water and with a trick he locked the water inside. When Asvatthama came to know this, he said, 'Duryodhana do not know that we three great warriors are still alive, who can indeed suppress the enemies.' Later, these three warriors, in a view to prepare polity of the battle field with Duryodhana went near that lake to meet him. Then Duryodhana said, 'You all take rest. I am also tired. The army of Pandavas has become big now. So, I don't have any interest to fight at this moment. The interest that you all have in your mind to fight is indeed not at all a wonder. But, this is not the time to show valor. I will take rest this night and tomorrow morning, along with you all, I will certainly fight with the enemies.'

Here, Pandavas were in search of Duryodhana. The hunters, after discussing with three great warriors, informed Pandavas about Duryodhana. Having known that Duryodhana had entered into water, Yudhishtira, along with Srikrishna reached that terrific lake called Dvaipayana. Its water was pure and cold. But, it was appearing like an ocean. Having restrained the water with illusion, while wonderfully meditating, Duryodhana was taking rest in that lake. It was impossible for anyone to see him. Later, in that deep water, Duryodhana heard a big sound that was like roaring of a cloud.

When, Yudhishtira reached that lake he saw that having restrained the water, Duryodhana has used illusion. Having known this, Yudhishtira said to Duryodhana, 'O Duryodhana! Why did you start this religious practice? Having got destroyed the entire clan and all Kshatriyas, you have entered this lake to protect your life. Get up, come and fight. Where have your ego and arrogance gone? Having got scared, you are now sleeping in the water. Now I consider your past valor futile. Not fighting in the battle field or fleeing away from the battle, both are not eternal Dharma. Only mean people rely upon this bad path. One cannot obtain heaven with this.' Having thus, listening to the provoking words of Yudhishtira, Duryodhana who was staying in water replied, 'Having scared for my life, I did not come here. I neither have chariot nor weapons with me. My soldiers were also killed. My army was destroyed. I alone remained in the battle field. So, in this situation, I felt to take rest. You also take rest for a while. Later, having got up I will certainly fight with you. All my brothers, for whom, I desired the kingdom were killed. All the



kshatriyas of this earth too were killed. All the gems of this place were destroyed. So I don't have any interest in enjoying this earth that has become destitute like a widow.' Yudhishtira replied after hearing words, 'Don't prattle like a distressed person. I consider your words as that of buzzing of birds. Having won me in the battle, you rule this earth. Earlier, you were not even giving me the share as much as a nib of a needle. How is that you are giving me the entire earth now?' Having heard so many words of Yudhishtira, Duryodhana fell in trouble and was taking a deep breathe. Having meditated in the water, he decided for battle and said thus to Yudhishtira, 'Being alone I am tired. I am without my vehicle and chariot. Your strength is much. Having seated on a chariot, you have surrounded me with various kinds of weapons. So, being alone, how can I, fight with you, without any chariot and weapons? You come one by one and fight with me. It's not fair to force any one to fight with many. I am not scared of any Panchala or Pandavas. I being alone can obstruct you all in moving ahead.' Then Yudhishtira replied, 'I agree with your words. You can fight separately, one after the other with every individual. You can take the weapon that is liked by you and fight with only one of us. I swear that the kingdom will be given to you, if you kill any one of us. If you are killed, you will obtain the heaven.' Then Duryodhana replied, 'I like the battle of mace. Any one warrior, amongst you all, who is confident enough to win over me, can fight with me with his mace on foot.' Having said thus, Duryodhana holding his iron mace on his shoulder came out like a valorous sun. Further, his fight of words was split with Bhima. After hearing the harsh words of Bhima, Duryodhana said, 'What is the use of prattling like this? You may first fight with me. I will take away all your pride.' Thus the battle of mace between Bhima and Duryodhana was confirmed. Balarama came there to see the fight of his two students. Having seen him, Srikrishna and Pandavas were delighted and received him by giving him proper hospitality. Balarama said, 'I left for a pilgrim journey. Forty-two days were over. I wanted to see the battle of mace.' Thereafter, having taken the maces in their hands, Duryodhana and Bhimasena got down to battle field. Both the warriors acquired brilliance.

Thereafter, the pilgrim journey of Balaram was depicted, where the story of moon relieving from curse is explicated in detail. Then, while mentioning his pilgrim journey Balarama said, 'The land Samantapanchaka is popular as a quadrangular spot of Prajapati. If one fights in that eternal battle field of Triloki and obtains death will certainly obtain heaven.' Having convinced with this, Yudhishtira went to that Samantapanchaka. At that juncture, enraged Duryodhana took his huge mace and went on foot along with Pandavas. With the blows of conches, drum-beats, lion-roar of the warriors on horses, all the directions reverberated. Both the warriors were glowing like huge infuriated elephants in the battle field. When both of them were fighting like the infuriated elephants, it was appearing as if they turn each other into ashes with their gazes. When they were shouting on each other, it appeared as if it were an uproar of two lions. They split on each other like two bulls that possessed huge horns. The sound of their attack was as terrific as the sound of a thunderbolt. With an intention to win over each other, their fight was very much terrific and enthusiastic and resembled as that of Indra and



Prahlada. Bhima's mace was terrific as the noose of Yama. When he was rotating his mace, its sound echoed for a long while. At the time of battle, Bhima's mace has fallen down. Then, having jumped, Duryodhana, hit on the chest of Bhima, because of which, Bhima was fainted. Later, having received a hint from Krishna, Bhima attacked on Duryodhana. It was as if the fight between Indra, the lord of gods and Namuchi, the lord of demons. With the attack of mace on each other, both their organs were ramshackled and were gushed with full of blood. Roaring like a lion, Bhima attacked Duryodhana and forcefully hit on his thighs. Mace fell on his thighs like a thunderbolt and broke his thighs. As a result, he fell on the ground. When, he fell down a big sound came from the sky and a terrific falling star, with a big lightening fell on the earth. Rain of blood and dust showered from the sky. Pandavas were delighted and saw him by going near him. Yudhishtira said, 'You should not lament. You are obtaining a praise-worthy death. By all means we have become distressed, as we have to lead a life that is devoid of beloved relatives.

Balarama became angry when he came to know that Bhimasena, with his legs hit Duryodhana on his head. Angrily, he screamed and said, 'O Bhima! Fie with you. I have never seen in a rightful battle of mace that a warrior is hit underneath the navel. You behaved independently, by hitting him underneath his navel.' Having said thus, he took his plough and marched towards Bhimsena. Then Srikrishna forcefully held the shoulders of Balarama and said, 'Brother! Pandavas, who strictly follow the main objects of human goal (Purusharthas), are our real friends. They are our own people as they are our maternal aunt's sons. Duryodhana has deceived them a lot. Bhima has taken a vow that he would pierce the two thighs of Duryodhana. On the other hand, sage Maitreya also cursed Duryodhana that Bhimasen would pierce his thighs. Hence, I don't find fault with Bhimasen.' Thus, Srikrishna convinced Balaram by telling him so many words of reasoning.

Yudhishtira also did not like Bhima hitting the head of Duryodhana with legs. He did not like the destruction of entire clan too. But, at the same time, he wanted slay of Duryodhana who was moving in a disloyal path. Yudhishtira said to Bhima, 'You have ended up the enmity. King Duryodhana was killed. By following the footsteps of Srikrishna, we have won the entire earth. Fortunately, you have become victorious and you made the enemies' fall.

Thereafter, Pandavas entered the camp of Duryodhana. As the stage loses its glow, when the audience move out, so Duryodhana's camp was also lacking the splendor in the absence of Duryodhana. Then Srikrishna said to Arjuna, 'you bring down the bow Gandeeva, the arrows and quiver. You too get down. I will get down later. Your welfare lies in doing thus.' Later, when the supreme lord Srikrishna has got down from the chariot, the divine monkey which was there in the form of Arjuna's banner has vanished. Later, the chariot was blazed by the fire instantly. When the chariot has turned into ashes, all the Pandavas were surprised. Arjuna, having folded his hands, saluted lord Krishna, while falling on his feet and asked him the mystery of chariot getting burnt. Srikrishna replied, 'The chariot was already destroyed by the attack of divine weapons. You have fulfilled your desire



today. Since, I was sitting on it, it did not get burnt in the battle field.' Further, Srikrishna went to Hastinapura and consoled Dhrtarashtra and Gandhari. Later, he returned back again.

There in the battle field, as Duryodhana's thighs were pierced, he fell on the ground and was afflicted with dust. He was lamenting, while recollecting the cruel and disloyal deeds of Bhima. The messenger informed Asvatthama about the disloyal behavior of Bhima and Duryodhana's distressed condition.

No sooner they received the news from a messenger, Asvatthama, Krpacharya and Krtavarma reached immediately to the battle field and saw that Duryodhana's thighs were pierced, his eyes were filled with anger and he was like a fallen tiger and was fully enraged. Having got down from the chariot, they sat on the ground near Duryodhana. Having seen the distressed condition of Duryodhana, Asvatthama's eyes were filled with tears and he thought that he who should have ruled the entire earth, had now fallen down in a forest that is devoid of people. When Duryodhana heard the words of Asvatthama, his eyes too were filled with tears and he said to everyone, 'Today people are tormented. By following the words of Srikrishna, I did not move out from the rightful path of Kshatriya. At any cost, I don't deserve grief.

Asvatthama said, 'Mean Pandavas have killed my father cruelly. But I was not that much sad as I am sad today due to your defeat. I swear that I would send all the enemies to the world of Yama in the presence of Srikrishna only.' Having heard the pleasing words from the son of Dronacharya, Duryodhana said to Krpacharya, 'If you really want to do a favor to me, and then please by following my orders, crown Asvatthama as commander-in-chief.

Thus with this, the story of Salya parva came to an end.

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