

the west of Khāṇḍavaprastha (*niryāya khāṇḍavaprasthāt pratīcīm abhito diśam* 2. 29. 2) Ābhīras are said to live on the bank of the river Sarasvatī (*śūdrābhīraganāś caiva ye cāśritya sarasvatīm*) 2. 29. 9. B. Characteristics : They are called Mlecchas 16. 8. 61; Dasyus 16. 8. 44, 47, 58, 60; they live on fish (*varṭayanti ca ye matsyair...*) 2. 29. 9; fight with sticks (*yaśtipraharaṇāḥ*) 16. 8. 47; plunderers (*loptrahāriṇāḥ*) 16. 8. 47; evil doers (*pāpakarmāṇāḥ*) 16. 8. 45; greedy (*lobhōpahatacetasāḥ*) 16. 8. 45; whose sight was inauspicious (*aśubhadarśanāḥ*) 16. 8. 45; who did not know *dharma* (*adharmajñāḥ*) 16. 8. 50; who did not follow the correct course (*mūḍhāḥ*) 16. 8. 51. C. Epic events : (1) Nakula in his expedition to the west before the Rājastīya brought, among others, the clans of Ābhīras under his control (*śūdrābhīraganāś caiva ... vaśe cakre*) 2. 29. 9-10; (2) They fought on the side of the Kauravas; on the twelfth day of the war they were placed at the neck of the Suparṇa Vyūha (7. 19. 4-5) arranged by Droṇa (*śūrābhīrā daśerakāḥ / ... grīvāyām*) 7. 19. 7; (3) When Arjuna reached Pañcanada along with men and women of the Bhojas, Vṛṣṇis and Andhakas (16. 8. 33-38, 43), the Ābhīras consulted among themselves and knowing that Arjuna was the only warrior to escort the women, thousands of them, equipped with sticks, attacked Bhojas and others to loot their wealth; they did not mind the threats of Arjuna and kidnapped the women under his charge; Arjuna struck some of them with his arrows and when the arrows were exhausted he killed the Dasyus with the tip of his bow; but the Mlecchas succeeded in taking away with them Vṛṣṇi women in

spite of Arjuna's effort to protect them (*ābhīrā mantrayām āsuh sametyāśubhadarśanāḥ || ayam eko 'rjuno yoddhā ... / nayaty asmān atikramya ... || tato yaśtipraharaṇā dasyavas te sahasraśaḥ | abhyadhāvanta vṛṣṇinām taṁ janām ... || tathoktās tena vīrena kadhārthīkrītya tadvacaḥ | abhipetur janām ... | ... śaraiḥ pārtho ... | jaghāna dasyūn ... || ... dhanuṣkoṭyā tadā dasyūn avadhī t pākaśāsanīḥ || prekṣatas tv eva pārthasya vṛṣṇyandhakavarastriyah | jagmur ādāya te mlecchāḥ |*) 16. 8. 43-61; Arjuna reported the abduction of Vṛṣṇi women by Ābhīras to Vyāsa (*paśyato vṛṣṇidārāś ca mama brahman sahasraśaḥ | ābhīrair anuśṛtyājau hṛtāḥ*) 16. 9. 16. D. Past event : Sarasvatī formerly disappeared at Vinaśana due to her hatred for Śūdras and Ābhīras (*tato vinaśanam... | śūdrābhīrān prati dveśād yatra naśīā sarasvatī*) 9. 36. 1. E. They figure in a prophecy : While describing the end of the Kali era to Yudhiṣṭhira, Mārkaṇḍeya counted Ābhīras among the Mleccha kings who would rule the earth (*bahavo mleccharājānaḥ pṛthivyām manuḥjādhipa | ... śūdrās tathābhīrā narottama*) 3. 186. 29, 30.

Āmaratha m. (pl.) : Name of a Janapada (?)

Listed by Saṁjaya among the (northern) Janapadas of the Bhāratavarṣa (*ata ūrdhvam janapadān nibodha gadato mama*) 6. 10. 37, 5; (*vātajāmarathoraḡāḥ*) 6. 10. 53 (Or is this to be read as *vātajāmarathoraḡāḥ*?)

Āraṭṭa, Bāhlika m. (pl.) : Name of a country and its people; also referred to as Pañcanada (8. 30. 62, 65-66, 74), Āraṭṭaka (8. 30. 74), Bāhli (2. 47. 22; 5. 84. 6; 13.