

an alternative explanation of the word see Uttama ).

**Uttarakuru m. (pl.) :** Name of a *dvīpa* and of the people residing there.

**A. Location :** Counted by Samjaya among the four *dvīpas* on the four sides of mountain Meru (*tasya* (i. e. of mount Meru 6. 7. 8) *pārśve tv ime dvīpās catvāraḥ samsthītāḥ prabho* /... *uttarās caiva kuravaḥ*) 6. 7. 11; to the south of Nīla mountain and to the northern side of mount Meru (*dakṣiṇena tu nīlasya meroḥ pārśve tathottare* / *uttarā kuravo rājan*) 6. 8. 2; the river which arises from the juice of the fallen fruit of Jambū tree makes a *pradakṣiṇā* of Meru and flows to the Uttara Kurus (*tasyā jambvāḥ phalaraso nadī bhūtīvā janādhipa* / *meruṃ pradakṣiṇam kṛtvā samprayāty uttarān kurūn* //) 6. 8. 23; it lies beyond the countries occupied by Mlecchas, and beyond the mountainous regions occupied by Vidyādhara, Vānaras, Kimnaras, Kimpuruṣas; beyond the Uttara Kurus lie the Kailāsa mountain and the Naranārāyaṇāśrama (*deśān mlecchagaṇākīrṇān ... dadṛśur gṛtipādāmś ca ... vidyādharaṇākīrṇān yutān vānarakimnaraiḥ* / *tathā kimpuruṣaiś caiva gandharvaiś ca samantataḥ* // ... *te vyatītya bahūn deśān uttarāmś ca kurūn apti* / *dadṛśur ... kailāsam parvatottamam* // *tasyābhyāse tu dadṛśur naranārāyaṇāśramam* (3. 145. 12-13; 15-16; they are conceived to be beyond mountain Meru and the Nandana forest and below the world of Soma 13. 105. 20, 23, 29; Arjuna in his expedition to the north went up to the Uttara Kurus but did not enter it; the Uttara Kurus lay beyond the Śveta mountain, the residence of Kimpuruṣas, the Hāṭaka deśa, Gandharva deśa, Hari-

varṣa in the north (*prayayāv uttarām tasmād diśam*) 2. 24. 1; (*evam sa ... vijigye diśam uttarām*) 2. 25. 17, 24; (*sa śvetaparvataṃ vīraḥ samatikramya ... deśam kimpuruṣāvāsam ... tam jivā hāṭakam deśam ... gandharvarakṣitam deśam vyajayat pāṇḍavas tataḥ* // ... *uttaram harivarṣam tu samāsādy sa pāṇḍavaḥ* /... *uttarāḥ kuravo hy ete*) 2. 25. 1, 3, 5, 7, 11; (*diśam hy udīcīm api cottarān kurūn gāṇḍīva-dhanvā ekaratho jigāya*) 5. 22. 12; (according to Nīla. on Bom. Ed. 5. 22. 12: *uttarān kurūn himācalād apy udagdeśān svargabhūmirūpān*); they are once distinguished from the southern Kurus (i. e. the Kuru country) 1. 102. 10. **B. Description :** Holy (*punya*) 6. 8. 2; 13. 54. 16; delightful (*ramya*) 13. 105. 25; where Siddhas live (*siddhanīṣevita*) 6. 8. 2; abode of those who have done meritorious acts (*kṛtapunya-pratiśraya*) 6. 7. 11. **C. Holiness :** (1) The land of the Uttara Kurus was meant for those who had no expectations from all beings, who did not eat meat, who had abandoned the use of rod, who did no injury to moving and non-moving beings, who had become one with all beings, who had no desires, no attachments, who were free from passions, who were indifferent to gain and loss, to abuse and praise (*ye sarvabhūteṣu nivṛttakāmā amāmsādā nyastadaṇḍāś caranti* / *na hīmsanti sthāvaram jaṅgamaṃ ca bhūtānām ye sarvabhūtātma-bhūtāḥ* // *nirāśiṣo nirmamā vītaragā lābhālābhe tulyanindāpraśamsāḥ* / *tathāvidhānām eṣa loko maharṣe*) 13. 105. 27-28; (2) One who donates household articles (like bed etc.), having all qualities, to a good Brāhmaṇa, who is learned and virtuous, goes to the land of the Uttara Kurus