

BHAGA III. A vedic god considered to be the lord of wealth, prowess and happiness. Bhaga is also one of the six Ādityas mentioned in the Ṛgveda, viz. Bhaga, Mitra, Aryamā, Varuṇa, Dakṣa and Aīṣa. (Ṛgveda, 2.27).

BHAGADĀ. An attendant (woman) of Subrahmaṇya. (Śalya Parva, Chapter 46, Verse 26).

BHAGADATTA. Bhagadatta was King of Prāgjyotiṣapura. Mahābhārata furnishes the following information about him.

1) Bhagadatta was born from a limb of the asura called Bīṣkala. (M.B., Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Verse 9).

2) He was present at the wedding of Pāñcālī. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 185, Verse 12).

3) Known also as lord of the Yavanas (Yavanādhīpa). Bhagadatta was a friend of Pāṇḍu, and that friendship was transferred to Yudhiṣṭhira too. (Sabhā Parva, Chapter 14, Verse 14).

4) The triumphal tour of Arjuna in connection with the Rājasūya yajña performed by Yudhiṣṭhira evoked feelings of jealousy in the heart of Bhagadatta, and he fought against Arjuna. The courage and prowess Arjuna exhibited in the fight astonished Bhagadatta, who congratulated Arjuna on his supreme courage and admitting defeat yielded to Arjuna. (Sabhā Parva, Chapter 26, Verse 7).

5) Bhagadatta, along with the Yavanas was present at the Rājasūya of Yudhiṣṭhira. He also made presents of horses of very high pedigree and very costly gems etc. (Sabhā Parva, Chapter 51, Verse 14).

6) Karna once defeated Bhagadatta in fight. (Vana Parva, Chapter 254, Verse 5).

7) In the great war he, with his army, fought on the side of Duryodhana. (Udyoga Parva, Chapter 19, Verse 15).

8) During the first day of the war Bhagadatta fought a duel with the King of Virāṭa. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 49).

9) He was defeated in his fight with Ghaṭotkaca. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 64, Verse 59).

10) In the fight which took place after the above defeat Bhagadatta caused Bhīmasena to faint in the field. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 64, Verse 13).

11) And after that he defeated Ghaṭotkaca in fight. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 83, Verse 40).

12) Next ensued the combat with King Daśārṇa in which the King was defeated. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 95, Verse 48).

13) It was not long after this that Bhagadatta cut off the hands of the Kṣatradeva. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 95, Verse 73).

14) Viśoka, the charioteer of Bhīma-sena, hit by the arrows of Bhagadatta fell down and fainted. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 95, Verse 76).

15) Bhagadatta and Sātyaki fought against each other. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 111, Verse 7).

16) Chapters 113 and 114 of the Bhīṣma Parva describe the combats fought by Bhagadatta with Bhīmasena and Arjuna.

17) Bhagadatta and Drupada fought with each other. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 14, Verse 40).

18) Bhagadatta killed king Daśārṇa. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 26, Verse 38).

19) Bhagadatta killed Ruciparvan. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 26, Verse 52).

20) He shot the Vaiṣṇavāstra (arrow given by Viṣṇu) on Arjuna. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 29, Verse 17).

21) Arjuna killed Bhagadatta. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 29, Verse 48).

22) After his death, his son, Vajradatta became King of Prāgjyotiṣa. Arjuna killed Vajradatta also. (Aśvamedha Parva, Chapter 76).

23) King Śailālaya, who was Bhagadatta's grandfather, attained Indraloka on account of the greatness of his tapas. (Āśramavāsika Parva, Chapter 20, Verse 10).

BHAGANANDĀ. An attendant woman of Subrahmaṇya. (Śalya Parva, Chapter 46, Verse 11).

BHAGAVADDHYĀNAPARVA. A sub-parva of Udyoga-Parva. It comprises chapters 72-150 in Udyoga Parva.

BHĀGAVATA. One of the eighteen famous Purāṇas. Gāyatrī is the main theme of this Purāṇa and based on it it dwells on the greatness of Dharma (duty) and states about the dharmas of Sārasvatakālpa. (See under Purāṇa).

BHAGAVAD GĪTĀ.

1) *General.* The Bhagavad Gītā is a poem consisting of 650 verses divided into eighteen chapters. The Gītā covers chapters 25-45 in the Bhīṣma Parva of the Mahābhārata, and it is in the form of a talk or discussion between Arjuna and Lord Kṛṣṇa. The mighty armies of the Pāṇḍavas and the Kauravas were arrayed on opposite sides for mortal combat on the field of Kurukṣetra when Arjuna, overcome by grief at the prospect of fathers, brothers, preceptors and other Kinsmen fighting and killing one another expressed to his charioteer, Śrī Kṛṣṇa his aversion to fighting. But, the Lord pointed out to the unwilling Arjuna, by unique and various arguments, his imperative duty, under the circumstance, to fight and fight in heroic earnestness with the result that Arjuna shed his disinclination to fight and entered the fray, which ended in the ultimate victory of the Pāṇḍavas. And the dialogue between Arjuna and Kṛṣṇa, and especially the great teaching of Kṛṣṇa on the field form the theme of the Gītā. The Gītā contains three spheres or fields of teaching; the karma yoga (philosophy of action), jñāna yoga (philosophy of knowledge) and Bhaktiyoga (philosophy of devotion). The three yogas are treated each in six chapters.

The theme of the Gītā is philosophy, and it is revered as one of the most sublime philosophical texts of the Hindu religion. Many a great thinker and philosopher like Ācārya Śaṅkara, Rāmānujācārya and Madhvācārya have annotated, and written commentaries on the Gītā. There is a school of thought which believes that the Gītā was taught to Arjuna by Kṛṣṇa himself on the battle-field in something like tabloid form and that Vyāsa elaborated the mighty teaching in its present form. The poet, Bāṇa, who flourished in the 7th century A.D., and the great Śaṅkara, who lived in the 8th century believed that the Gītā was sung by Kṛṣṇa himself. But there are some modern thinkers, who argue that the Gītā was composed some time between the third and fourth centuries B.C. and it was interpolated into the Mahābhārata in the second century A.D.

The Gītā has translations in all the languages of the world. The whole world has acclaimed it as a very