

(29) He slew Śalya (Śloka 51, Chapter, 17, Śalya Parva).

(30) He killed the younger brother of Śalya. (Śloka 64, Chapter 17, Śalya Parva).

(31) Duryodhana at this time went to a lake in Dvāpāyana and lay there immersed under water. Yudhiṣṭhira went there with an army and challenged him for a fight. (Śloka 18, Chapter 61, Śalya Parva).

(32) When Yudhiṣṭhira won the war he sent Śrī Kṛṣṇa to Hastināpura to console Gāndhārī. (Śloka 40, Chapter 62, Śalya Parva).

10) *Yudhiṣṭhira is crowned King.* When Yudhiṣṭhira won the war he sent Nakula to bring Pāncālī. He went round the Kurukṣetra battle ground and saw his own kith and kin lying dead and the sight made him faint. After that he went to Dhṛtarāṣṭra. Gāndhārī cursed him for killing her sons. Gāndhārī gave a piercing look at the nails on the foot of Dharmaputra when he stood before Gāndhārī bowing down, Instantly the nails turned black. Yudhiṣṭhira gave Dhṛtarāṣṭra the names of all the prominent persons who were killed in the war. Dhṛtarāṣṭra ordered Yudhiṣṭhira to perform the obsequies of the dead. It was at this stage that Yudhiṣṭhira came to know from Kuntī that Karṇa was his brother. Yudhiṣṭhira wept bitterly when he knew the secret from his mother and cursed womankind as a whole stating that woman would thereafter be incapable of keeping a secret to herself. The news of the death of Karṇa gave a sudden mental turn-back to Yudhiṣṭhira and he decided to renounce all and go to the forest. He called aside his followers and announced his decision to them. At that time Vyāsa came there and preached to him about the perishable nature of life. Yudhiṣṭhira then asked him what he should do for the atonement of the sins committed. Though he strongly desired to go to the forest Vyāsa and Śrī Kṛṣṇa did not allow him to do so and sent them all to Hastināpura. When the Pāṇḍavas entered the city the people gave them a rousing reception and Yudhiṣṭhira was crowned King. (Chapters 10 to 17 of Saṁvāsa Parva, Chapters 12 to 27 Strī Parva, Chapters 1 to 40 Śānti Parva).

11) *Administration.* When Yudhiṣṭhira became King, with the permission of Dhṛtarāṣṭra, he distributed the various administrative responsibilities among his brothers. He took for himself the task of taking care of their kith and kin and friends. He gave many gifts to the brahmins and other dependants. He once went to Śrī Kṛṣṇa to express his gratitude for him. He visited Bhīṣma lying on his bed of arrows accompanied by Śrī Kṛṣṇa and his brothers. Bhīṣma revealed to him the inner import of Rājadharmā, Āpaddharmā and Mokṣadharmā. Receiving the blessings of Bhīṣma Yudhiṣṭhira and his brothers returned to Hastināpura. Yudhiṣṭhira went to the Himālayas to get riches from Marutta before performing an Aśvamedha Sacrifice. While on his way to the Himālayas he fasted for a night and worshipped Śiva. People like Vyāsa and Śrī Kṛṣṇa partook in the sacrifice. After the sacrifice was over Dhṛtarāṣṭra desired to go to forest and sought the approval of Yudhiṣṭhira to do so. On hearing that Yudhiṣṭhira wept. But on the advice of Vyāsa he gave his approval for Dhṛtarāṣṭra to go to forest. Dhṛtarāṣṭra appealed to him through Vidura for funds to perform the obsequies of the dead. Bhīma objected to this but

Yudhiṣṭhira reprimanded him and silenced him and gave Dhṛtarāṣṭra enough funds for his purposes. Kuntī and Gāndhārī accompanied Dhṛtarāṣṭra to the forest. Yudhiṣṭhira accompanied by Pāncālī and Sahadeva went and saw them in the forests after a few days. (Chapters 41 to 55, Śānti Parva, Chapters 92 from Anuśāsana Parva and Aśvamedha Parva and Chapter 26 from Āśramavāsika Parva).

12) *Vidura merges into Dharmaputra.* When Dhṛtarāṣṭra, Gāndhārī and Kuntī went to forest Vidura also accepted sannyāsa and left for the forest. There sitting under a tree he started doing penance. After a few days Yudhiṣṭhira came to the forest to see his mother and others. After spending some time with Dhṛtarāṣṭra, Gāndhārī and Kuntī he went to the place where Vidura was doing penance. Vidura started running the moment he set eyes on Yudhiṣṭhira and the latter ran after him. After some time Vidura turned back and stood staring at Yudhiṣṭhira. At that time the soul of Vidura escaping from his body merged with that of Yudhiṣṭhira. The body of Vidura stood stiff and leaned against a tree. Taking him to be dead Yudhiṣṭhira started to do the funeral rites and then there resounded a voice from heaven saying that Vidura was not dead. The unknown voice was from Dharmadeva. When the voice subsided Vidura became his old self again. Yudhiṣṭhira went back. (Chapter 26, Āśramavāsika Parva).

13) *The end of Dharmaputra.* Soon after his return from the forest Nārada came to Hastināpura and told him of the death of Dhṛtarāṣṭra, Kuntī and Gāndhārī in a wild fire in the forest. Lamenting deeply Yudhiṣṭhira performed the obsequies at Hastināpura. It was at this time that the Yādava dynasty perished and Dvārakā was sunk into the ocean. The Pāṇḍavas then crowned Parikṣit as their successor and entrusted Yuyutsu with the administration of the State till Parikṣit came of age. Vajra was appointed as chief of Indraprastha. The obsequies of Vāsudeva, Balarāma and Kṛṣṇa were performed at Hastināpura. Kṛpācārya was appointed as preceptor to Parikṣit. After having made all such arrangements the Pāṇḍavas commenced their Mahāprasthāna. The five Pāṇḍavas and Pāncālī started from Hastināpura. A dog also followed them. Yudhiṣṭhira walked ahead. On the way, one by one, Pāncālī Sahadeva, Nakula, Arjuna and Bhīmasena fell dead. Alone with a dog to keep company, Yudhiṣṭhira reached a plateau on the top of the Himālayas and there Indra was waiting for him with a chariot. But Yudhiṣṭhira said that he would not come to heaven without his wife and brothers. He was then informed that they had already reached heaven. Yudhiṣṭhira insisted that the dog also should be taken to heaven which Indra blankly refused. But Yudhiṣṭhira refused to ascend the chariot without the dog which, he said, had given him company from the start to the finish. The dog then changed itself into Dharmadeva and he complimented him on his sense of justice. When Yudhiṣṭhira entered heaven he saw Duryodhana sitting in all luxury and glory. Yudhiṣṭhira did not like it but Nārada pacified him. Yudhiṣṭhira saw all his relatives sitting there. A devadūta took him round hell also. When he heard the pitiable groans from there Yudhiṣṭhira thought his right place was with them. But Indra and Dharmadeva again consoled him. He was given a bath in Ākāśagaṅgā. He then lost his mortal form and his soul entered Divyaloka.