

The hermit advised him to observe the fast of Vaiśākha-suklaikādaśī known as Mohinī. Accordingly he observed the fast and became sinless. Invested with a divine form he entered the realm of Viṣṇu. (Padma Purāṇa, Uttara Khaṇḍa, Chapter 51).

DHRṢṬADYUMNA. The son of King Drupada. He was brother of Pāñcālī.

1) *Birth.* Drupada and Droṇa were fellow students. After finishing his education Drupada became King. When Droṇa came to his palace Drupada did not honour him. Droṇa got angry, went to Hastināpura and began to teach the Pāṇḍava and the Kaurava princes in archery and other weapons. When the weapon-training was over, Arjuna, at the instruction of Droṇa, defeated and captured Drupada. Droṇa seized half of his kingdom from him.

As Drupada was not powerful to wreak vengeance on Droṇa, he performed a sacrifice to obtain a son who could take revenge on Droṇa and regain his lost prestige. A son and a daughter were born from the sacrificial fire. The son was named Dhrṣṭadyumna. The daughter grew up and became the famous Pāñcālī. The Pāṇḍavas married her.

At the time of birth, Dhrṣṭadyumna had a crown on his head, and armour on his body, bow, arrows and sword in his hands. He ran out of the fire into a chariot and sat in it as if he were about to begin a travel of conquest. Seeing this the Pāñcālas were filled with joy. There was a celestial voice: "This boy will destroy the fear of the Pāñcālas. He is born to slay Droṇa." At this time the queen approached the sacrificing priest with a request that the children born of the sacrificial fire should consider her as their mother. Accordingly the children accepted the wife of Drupada as their mother. Brāhmaṇas named the boy Dhrṣṭadyumna and the girl Kṛṣṇā.² (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 166). (For more particulars see under 'Pāñcālī' Para 2).

2) *Till the battle of Bhārata.* The history of Dhrṣṭadyumna till the battle between the Pāṇḍavas and the Kauravas, is given below.

The news that Dhrṣṭadyumna was born to kill Droṇa spread everywhere. The Broad-minded Droṇa did not seem to mind this news. Droṇa took Dhrṣṭadyumna to his house, with the permission of Drupada and gave him training in the wielding of weapons. He believed that God's will could not be thwarted. After he had learned archery Dhrṣṭadyumna returned to his kingdom. Next, we see Dhrṣṭadyumna at the svayamvara (marriage) of Pāñcālī. Several kings arrived from various countries on that occasion. When the auspicious moment came, Dhrṣṭadyumna brought Pāñcālī to the nuptial dais. He proclaimed the rules and conditions that the competitors of Svayamvara had to observe. After that he conversed with each king who was present. In the Svayamvara Pāñcālī accepted Arjuna. The Pāṇḍavas and Pāñcālī were given the Kumbhakāra mandira (the Palace of Kumbhakāra) which stood in the city of Drupada, to stay for that night. Though the Pāṇḍavas were in the guise of Brāhmaṇas, Dhrṣṭadyumna had his own doubts about their identity.

1. The fast taken on the eleventh day of the bright lunar fortnight in the month of Vaiśākha.

2. Because he was born with Dhrṣṭatva (boldness) amarṣatva (impatience) and dyumna (vigour) the son of Drupada was called Dhrṣṭadyumna. Draupadī was called Kṛṣṇā as she was of Kṛṣṇa varṇa (dark complexion). Thus Drupada got two children from 'Makha' (sacrifice).

So he hid himself somewhere in the Palace and kept an eye on them. This shows his peculiar trait of observation. After this he returned to his Palace and pacified his father who had been much worried about his daughter's selection.

Next, we see Dhrṣṭadyumna, during the time of the forest life of the Pāṇḍavas. He consoled Pāñcālī, who was miserable. After that he took the sons of Pāñcālī, to his house. While the Pāṇḍavas were living in the forest 'Kāmyaka', Dhrṣṭadyumna visited them. The forest life of the Pāṇḍavas came to an end. A battle between the Pāṇḍavas and the Kauravas became inevitable. Then the Pāṇḍavas selected Dhrṣṭadyumna, as the commander-in-general of their army. He ordered for a general parade of the army and gave them instructions. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapters 166 to 195; the whole of Sabhā Parva; Vana Parva, Chapters, 12, 22 and 51; Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 72; Udyoga Parva, Chapters 50, 157, 163 and 164).

3) *Dhrṣṭadyumna in the Bhārata-battle* The part played by Dhrṣṭadyumna in the battle is given below:

(1) In the first day's battle Dhrṣṭadyumna confronted Droṇa. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 31).

(2) Fought with Bhīṣma. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 47, Stanza 31).

(3) On the second day of the battle he formed the disposition of the army called the 'Kraucāruṇavyūha' (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 50, Stanza 42).

(4) A terrible fight ensued between Droṇa and Dhrṣṭadyumna (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 53).

(5) He fought with Aśvatthāmā (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 61, Stanza 19).

(6) He killed Damana the son of Paurava. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 61, Stanza 20).

(7) He killed the son of Śalya. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 61, Stanza 29).

(8) He fought with Śalya and was wounded. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 62, Stanza 8).

(9) He formed the disposition called the 'Makara Vyūha'. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 75, Stanza 4).

(10) He shot the missile called Pramohana (the arrow of fainting) and the Kauravas swooned. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 77, Stanza 45).

(11) He was defeated by Droṇa (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 77, Stanza 69).

(12) He defeated Duryodhana. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 82, Stanza 53).

(13) He fought with Vinda and Aravinda. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 86, Stanza 61).

(14) He fought with Kṛtavarmā. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 110, Stanza 9).

(15) He again fought with Bhīṣma. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 114, Stanza 39).

(16) There was a combat with Droṇa again. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 7, Stanza 48).

(17) He fought with Suśarmā. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 14, Stanza 37).

(18) He fought with Durmukha. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 23, Stanza 4).

(19) He killed Candravarmā and Bṛhatkṣatra, King of Niśadha. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 35, Stanza 65).