

and one jars of ghec. In due time the jars broke and a hundred sons and a daughter came out of the jars. The daughter was named Duśśalā. For their name see 'Kauravas'. Dhṛtarāṣṭra got another son named Yuyutsu. (Chapters 115 and 116, Ādi Parva).

4) *Gāndhārī faints*. When Sañjaya reported about the death of Karṇa at the battle both Dhṛtarāṣṭra and Gāndhārī fainted. (Śloka 55, Chapter 96, Karṇa Parva).

5) *Gāndhārī starts to curse the Pāṇḍavas*. When the battle was over the sons of Gāndhārī and their followers were killed. Dhṛtarāṣṭra suggested that the Pāṇḍavas should visit Gāndhārī and pay homage to her. The Pāṇḍavas, therefore, went and stood before Gāndhārī very respectfully. Vengeance boiled in her heart and her body shivered. Gāndhārī was about to curse the Pāṇḍavas when Vyāsa, intervened saying "Gāndhārī! Don't you remember you said that victory would lie on the side of the righteous in this war? Your words are not wasted. The Pāṇḍavas won the battle because right was on their side. So why should you get agitated?" Gāndhārī became calm on hearing these words and she admitted that the end of the Kuru dynasty came because of the mistakes of Duryodhana, Śakuni, Karṇa and Duśśāsana. She, thereafter, treated the Pāṇḍavas as her own sons. (Chapter 14, Strī Parva, M.B.).

6) *Dharmaputra's foot-nails become blue*. Following the instructions of Dhṛtarāṣṭra, the Pāṇḍavas, approached and bowed before Gāndhārī. She covered her face with a cloth and wept, tears rolling down her cheeks. When Dharmaputra bent to touch her feet the latter saw through the veil on her face the foot-nails of Dharmaputra. A few drops of the lachrymal water fell on the foot-nails of Dharmaputra making them turn blue instantly. (Chapter 15, Strī Parva).

7) *Gāndhārī curses Kṛṣṇa*. At the end of the battle the aggrieved Gāndhārī went to Kurukṣetra together with Kṛṣṇa and other relatives. Seeing mighty Kings on the Kaurava side lying dead like huge trees lying truncated Gāndhārī burst into tears. She knew that Śrī Kṛṣṇa was at the root of all this. Embittered she looked at Kṛṣṇa and cursed him. "Ho, Kṛṣṇa, thirtysix years from this day you will lose your sons, ministers, friends and relatives. You will become a lone walker in the forests and be killed by trickery."

It was because of this curse that the Yādava tribe perished and Kṛṣṇa was struck by the arrow of a hunter which made him end his life on earth.

8) *The end of Gāndhārī*. After the great Kurukṣetra battle heart-broken Dhṛtarāṣṭra and Gāndhārī accompanied by Kuntī, Vidura and Sañjaya went to the forests to spend the rest of their life there. Many people and the Pāṇḍavas accompanied them up to the river Gaṅgā and there near the āśrama of Śatayūpa Dhṛtarāṣṭra made a hut and lived with Gāndhārī and Kuntī. The Pāṇḍavas felt the separation of their relatives unbearable and lived in grief. After six years one day Dharmaputra saw his mother, Kuntī, in a dream. He told his brothers about this and they all felt a desire to go to the forest and see their mother. The next day they reached the shores of Gaṅgā. Vyāsa also joined them. Gāndhārī and Kuntī expressed a desire to Vyāsa that they would like to see the dead sons and relatives once again. Vyāsa then asked them to go and take a dip in the river. When they rose up after a dip they saw

standing on the shores of the river the great warriors Karṇa and Duryodhana and others. By the yogic power of Vyāsa even the blind Dhṛtarāṣṭra could get the vision. Very soon the vision faded and the Pāṇḍavas returned to Hastināpura.

Two days after, fire broke out in the forest where Dhṛtarāṣṭra was staying. Dhṛtarāṣṭra, Kuntī and Gāndhārī were burnt to death in that fire. (Chapter 32, Āśramavāsika Parva).

9) *After the death*. Dharmaputra performed the obsequies of those who died in the wild fire (Āśramavāsika Parva, Chapter 30). Leaving the mortal bodies the souls of Dhṛtarāṣṭra and Gāndhārī entered Kuberaloka. (Śloka 14, Chapter 5, Svargārohaṇa Parva).

10) *Synonyms of Gāndhārī*. The following words have been used in the Mahābhārata to denote Gāndhārī: Gāndhārarājadulitā, Saubaleyi, Saubalī, Subalājā, Subalāputrī and Subalātmajā.

GĀNDHĀRĪ II. Another Gāndhārī, wife of Ajamīdha, one of the great Kings of the Pūru dynasty. (Śloka 37, Chapter 95, Ādi Parva).

GANDHARVA I. Gandharvas are sons born to the famous Kaśyapaprajāpati of his wife, Ariṣṭhā (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 19). Both belonged to the race of the Devas.

GANDHARVA II. A King born in the dynasty of Janamejaya. (Bhāgavata, Navama Skandha).

GĀNDHARVA. A marriage settled by the boy and the girl of their own accord. A love marriage. There are six different kinds of marriage: Gāndharva, Ārṣa, Prājāpatya, Rākṣasa, Āsura and Paisāca. (See under Vivāha).

GANDHARVANAGARA. Vyāsa has compared munis disappearing from sight to the fading out of Gandharva nagara.

"After having thus spoken to the Kurus, and while they were looking on, the band of sages disappeared in a trice like the fading out of Gandharvanagara." (Ādi Parva, Chapter 126, Verses 35 and 36).

What is this Gandharvanagara? The following description occurs in Hindi Śabdasāgara. "Owing to different optical illusions (sight) of man, villages and cities may appear to exist in the sky and also on seas, rivers, etc. When during summer the air on the upper strata of deserts, seas etc. gets heated, expanded, and rises up, the light passing through it becomes multi-coloured and gives reflections in the sky in the form of village parts or cities. Also can be seen therein reflections of trees, boats etc. One such reflection may be cast on earth also. This is a mere optical illusion. This reflection immediately fades out also. This unreal city which is an optical illusion is Gandharvanagara.

GANDHARVASENĀ. Daughter of Dhanavāhana (a gandharva) who lived in Svayamprabhānagara on Mount Kailāsa. She was cured of leprosy by observing somavāravrata. (Skandha Purāṇa).

GANDHARVATĪRTHA. An ancient place of pilgrimage on the banks of Sarasvatī in North India. The gandharva called Vibhāvasu usually dances at this place with his companions. Balabhadra Rāma once visited this holy place. (Śalya Parva, Chapter 37, Verse 9).

GANDHARVĪ. The first mother of horses. Kaśyapaprajāpati had by his wife Krodhavaśā ten daughters: Mṛgi, Mṛgamandā, Hari, Bhadratā, Mātāṅgi, Śārdūli,