

(19) Arjuna got ready to commit suicide: Kṛṣṇa dissuaded him from the attempt. (Karna Parva, Chapter 70).

(20) Kṛṣṇa again prompted Arjuna to kill Karna.

(21) In the fierce battle that ensued between Arjuna and Karna, Kṛṣṇa pressed down the platform of the chariot when the latter shot the nāgāstra (the serpent arrow). The arrow flew off with Arjuna's crown. (Karna Parva, Chapter 90).

(22) Arjuna killed Karna after which Kṛṣṇa prompted Dharmaputra to kill Śalya. (Śalya Parva, Chapter 7).

(23) Kṛṣṇa prompted Bhīma to kill Duryodhana in an illusory battle. (Śalya Parva, Chapter 58).

(24) As requested by Yudhiṣṭhira Kṛṣṇa left the battle-field for Hastināpura and returned after consoling Dhṛtarāṣṭra and Gāndhārī. (Śalya Parva, Chapter 62).

(25) Kṛṣṇa cursed Aśvatthāmā who released arrows against pregnant women. (See under Aśvatthāmā).

(26) Asked Bhīṣma to instruct Yudhiṣṭhira on dharma (righteousness). (Śānti Parva, Chapter 51).

(27) He granted the boon to Bhīṣma lying on the bed of arrows that he would not feel hunger and thirst and that his intellect would function powerfully as long as he was discoursing on dharma. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 52).

(28) He related to Arjuna the root meaning of his various names. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 341).

(29) He explained to sages and Bhūmidevī some profound doctrines about God and the world. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 167).

(30) He gave permission to Bhīṣma to die. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 167).

(31) Consoled Gaṅgādevī who grieved over the death of Bhīṣma. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 168).

(32) He once again revealed the doctrine of the Gītā in the form of discussions between Siddhamaharṣis and Kaśyapa. (Āśramavāsika Parva, Chapter 16).

(33) After the great war was over he went to Dvārakā with Subhadrā and Sātyaki with the consent of Yudhiṣṭhira. (Āśramavāsika Parva, Chapter 57, Verses 54-58).

37) *Śrī Kṛṣṇa again at Dvārakā.* When Kṛṣṇa returned to Dvārakā, Sage Uttānka visited him. The sage was told details about the Kauravas and the Pāṇḍavas by Kṛṣṇa. He detailed to the sage spiritual principles too and showed him his Viśvarūpa (Cosmic form). Kṛṣṇa participated in festival held by the Yādavas on the Raivata mountain. Afterwards when he went to Dvārakā he told his father Vasudeva details about the war. He himself performed the obsequies of Abhimanyu. (Aśvamedha Parva).

38) *Killed Hamsaḍibhakas.* See under Dibhaka.

39) *Kṛṣṇa brought back Parikṣit to life.* Kṛṣṇa again went to Hastināpura. There Uttarā, wife of Abhimanyu, delivered, but the child was born dead as the arrow of Aśvatthāmā had hit her womb. Kṛṣṇa brought the dead child back to life on the request of Kuntī. It was this child, who became later famous as Parikṣit. (Aśvamedha Parva, Chapter 66).

40) *The evening of Kṛṣṇa's life.*

(1) *The curse of Gāndhārī.* Most of the heroes and distinguished archers like Duryodhana had been killed in the great war, and Gāndhārī overwhelmed with grief and anger at the death of her sons lamented over them

loudly. She realised that Kṛṣṇa was the cause of all the destruction and cursed him as follows:—

“If I have gained any powers by my loyal and devout service to my husband, O ! Kṛṣṇa I curse you on the strength of that power. Since you forsook relations like the Kauravas and the Pāṇḍavas who quarrelled with each other, you also will have to witness the killing of relations. Thirtysix years from today your relations, ministers and sons will be killed, and you too will be killed by a hunter in the forest. Your women-folk also will cry as we women cry now.” (Strī Parva, Chapter 25).

The curse of Gāndhārī that the Yādava dynasty would be annihilated after thirtysix years was fulfilled. In the thirtysixth year another curse also befell the dynasty which contributed further to its annihilation.

(2) *Curse of the sages.* The sages Viśvāmitra, Kaṇva and Nārada came to Dvārakā once. Some Yādavas brought Sāmba dressed as a pregnant woman before the sages and asked them derisively what child, whether male or female, would Sāmba give birth to. Angry at this insult, the sages said that the ‘pregnant woman’ would deliver an iron rod, which would become instrumental for the destruction of the Yādava dynasty. Kṛṣṇa who was told about the curse said that it was as it was destined to be. Next day Sāmba delivered an iron rod. The Yādavas filed it into powder and threw the powder into the sea. Śrī Kṛṣṇa enforced prohibition of liquors in Dvārakā with the object of avoiding any untoward incidents in Dvārakā. It was declared that those who produced liquor would be hanged to death along with their families. (Mausala Parva, Chapter 1).

(3) *Evil omens.* Signs of the destruction of the Yādavas began appearing. Agents of Kāla visited house after house. Rats multiplied in numbers everywhere in the land, and they began gnawing the nails and hairs of people enjoying sleep. Sheep howled like jackals. Asses were born from cows and cats from mules. Dogs cohabited with rats. The Cakrāyudha (Discus) given to Kṛṣṇa by Agnideva at the time of Khāṇḍavadāha disappeared into the sky while the Yādavas were looking on. Thus symptoms of an all-round destruction were witnessed.

(4) *Destruction of the Yādavas.* Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Balabhadra, Uddhava and others were about to go on a pilgrimage, and the Yadus, the Vṛṣṇis and the Andhakas began manufacturing and drinking liquor. They also began to quarrel with one another. The powder of the iron rod thrown into the sea was washed ashore and it grew up like arrow-like grass. The Yādavas fought with one another and many were killed. Kṛṣṇa got terribly angry at the death of Sātyaki, Pradyumna and others. He plucked a handful of grass and it transformed itself into an iron rod with which he beat to death those around him. Then all the people plucked up the grass which turned into iron rods. They fought amongst themselves with the iron rods and all of them got killed.

(5) *Death of Rāma and Kṛṣṇa.* During this period Balabhadra went and seated himself under a tree in deep meditation. Kṛṣṇa stood near him. Dārūka and Babhru also arrived there. Kṛṣṇa deputed Dārūka to Hastināpura to inform Arjuna about the annihilation of the Yādava race. Then Kṛṣṇa went to the palace and consoled the women-folk there. When he told them that Arjuna would come and take care of them, his wives