

(iv) He engaged Vikarṇa in a combat. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 110, Stanza 11).

(v) Nakula defeated Vikarṇa. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 106, Stanza 12).

(vi) Nakula defeated Śakuni. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 169, Stanza 16).

(vii) He defeated Duryodhana in a fight. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 187, Stanza 50).

(viii) Nakula killed the King of Aṅga. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 22, Stanza 13).

(ix) He retreated on being defeated by Karṇa. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 24, Stanza 45).

(x) He fought with Droṇa. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 48, Stanza 34).

(xi) Nakula fought with Duryodhana again and was wounded. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 56, Stanza 7).

(xii) He fought with Vṛṣasena. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 61, Stanza 36).

(xiii) Nakula killed Citrasena, Satyasena and Suṣeṇa the sons of Karṇa. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 10).

4) After the Bhārata-battle.

(i) After the battle, Nakula explained to Yudhiṣṭhira, the duties of a house holder. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 12).

(ii) On the instruction of Yudhiṣṭhira, Nakula became the chief captain of the army. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 41, Stanza 12).

(iii) After the battle, the palace of Durmarṣaṇa the son of Dhṛtarāṣṭra was given to Nakula by Dharmaputra. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 44, Stanza 10).

(iv) After the battle when Yudhiṣṭhira performed the horse sacrifice, Nakula and Bhīmasena stood as protectors of the city. (M.B. Aśvamedha Parva, Chapter 72, Stanza 19).

(v) Nakula went to the forest to see Kuntī, who was engaged in penance during her latter days. (M.B. Āśramavāsi Parva, Chapter 25, Stanza 8).

5) *The end.* At the 'great departure' (Mahāprasthāna) of the Pāṇḍavas, Nakula died in the forest. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Svargārohaṇa Parva, Chapter 4, Stanza 9, that after death Nakula and Sahadeva attained the position of the Aśvinīdevas.

6) *The name Nakula.* It is stated in Mahābhārata, Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 5, Stanza 25 that the name 'Nakula' was given to him because there were none more handsome than he in the family (Kula) of the Pāṇḍavas.

NĀKULA. An ancient country in India. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 50, Stanza 53).

NALA I. Nala the King of Niṣadha. (As the history of Nala is included under the word Damayantī, some points which are not given there, are mentioned here).

(i) Nala was the son of Virasena, the King of Niṣadha. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 52, Stanza 56).

(ii) Once the hermit Bṛhadaśva came to the Palace of Virasena and praised Nala a good deal and spoke highly of his good qualities to his father. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 53, Stanza 2).

(iii) When Nala was playing in the garden some swans with golden wings flew to the lake in the garden. Nala caught hold of one of them just for fun. The swan said to Nala, "If you will let me off, I will tell Damayantī about you." So it was released. As a reward it flew to

the country of Vidarbha and persuaded Damayantī to love Nala. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 53).

(iv) After death Nala sat in the aerial chariot of Indra and witnessed the battle fought by Arjuna with the Kauravas at the end of the forest life of the Pāṇḍavas. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 56, Stanza 10).

(v) Previous birth. Two different stories are narrated about the previous birth of Nala.

1) In the previous birth Nala was a Vaiśya of the city of Pippala in the Gauḍa country. This Vaiśya became abstinent and after leaving off everything he had, he went to the forest. There, according to the advice of a hermit he undertook the fast of Gaṇeśa. As a result he was born as Nala in the next birth. (Gaṇeśa Purāṇa).

2) Nala and Damayantī were foresters named Āhuka and Āhukā. Śiva was pleased with the couple. So they were born in royal families in the next birth, and Śiva in the form of a swan, helped them. (Śiva Purāṇa, Śatarudra Saṁhitā).

NALA II. An ancient hermit. In Sabhā Parva, Chapter 7, Stanza 17, it is mentioned that this hermit lives in the palace of Indra.

NALA III. A monkey. This monkey was the son of Viśvakarmā. Śrī Rāma and the monkey-army went to redeem Sītā from Laṅkā and reached the sea-shore. A bridge had to be made to cross the sea and reach Laṅkā. Immediately Varuṇa the King of the seas appeared there and said, "Nala who is in the monkey-army, is the son of Viśvakarmā. His father had given him a blessing that he would become as expert an architect as his father. So let the construction of the bridge be commenced under his supervision." Accordingly under the supervision of Nala, Rāma's bridge of rock was completed and Śrī Rāma and the army of monkeys reached Laṅkā by walking over this bridge (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa, Sarga 22).

In the battle between Rāma and Rāvaṇa, Nala fought with the giant Tuṇḍaka. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 285, Stanza 9).

NALAKŪBARA. A son of Vaiśravaṇa. He had a brother called Maṅgrīva.

1) *Cursing Rāvaṇa.* It was the time when Rāvaṇa was ruling over Laṅkā and terrorising the fourteen worlds. As he was carrying on his conquests, once he came to a round rock near Kailāsa. It was night. Rambhā had fixed a rendezvous near the rock that night with Nalakūbara. The full moon shone bright. The radiance of the moon rendered Kailāsa and its vicinity most beautiful. Filled with passion Rāvaṇa could not sleep at all. In the silence of that calm night he heard the tinkling of bangles. Rāvaṇa opened his twenty eyes and looked in that direction. He saw an extremely beautiful woman clad in splendid garments and ornaments going along the way. He ran to her and caught hold of her hand. She was flurried and confused at his sudden appearance. So she said, "Oh Lord! I am the wife of Nalakūbara who is the son of your brother Kubera. My name is Rambhā. Your brother's son is your son too. So don't do any harm to your son's wife." But Rāvaṇa did not pay any heed to her words. He lifted her up and placed her on the round rock and raped her. Before dawn Rambhā, who had become like the lake of lotus trodden by a mad elephant, went to Nalakūbara and told him everything. Nalakūbara