

The last Maharathi

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to my God, Karna. It's my tribute to my great-grandfather, Mr. Nanasaheb Nalawade.

And it's a guru dakshina for my mentor, Mr. Bhanudas Gawade.

And I bow before my inspiration—my brother Vishal.

I dedicate this work to:

My teachers of ELTIS (English Language Teaching Institute of Symbiosis).

(Ms. Prachi Joshi,

Ms. Suvarna Dhawade,

Ms. Shweta Singh Ms. Caroline as they have made me an able person who can write this novelette in the English language.



Preface

Thanks to almighty God. Only because of his will was the writer able to write this novelette. The writer also wishes to express his deep and sincere gratitude for those who have guided him in completing this work. This work is a collection of short stories woven around Vrishketu—a son of Maharathi Karna. It is a mythological novelette inspired by the Mahabharata.



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Chapter - 1

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“Hey! Nakula, look at her. Who’s she?” Yudhisthira replied calmly, “Vrushali“. Who? “Karna’s wife, Vrushali. “”What is she doing here? Shall I ask her?” “Stop, Nakul.” I have invited her. she exclaimed with an authoritative tone. Everyone was astonished. “Kunti Mata!”. Everyone was staring at Kunti Mata, utterly perplexed. She continued. “I am going to reveal a secret: I know you are not going to love me anymore hereafter; maybe you will think that I am a snake who swallowed her own son. What do you mean, Mata? Yudhisthira asked even more calmly, “And who’s the son?” Now Kunti was wailing. She replied with a sob. “He was Karna, my son.” Arjuna sat down powerless and helpless. “You are not a mother; you are a monster indeed. You made me kill my brother. In fact, I have hated him all of my life.”- Arjuna. “Who else has known this fact?” Krishna and Bheeshma. Kunti was indeed in hell. “I curse you and all women that they will not be able to hide secrets anymore! Never, never, never. “ Now everyone was in tears.

Yudhisthira got up, genuflected, and asked for forgiveness. I deserve the curse, dear son of Dharma. Yudhisthira went to the Brahmin and asked him to get ready for the tarpan of Karna. Everyone came near Yudhisthira. Except Arjuna. Arjuna was completely lost in thought. Draupadi went straight to Vrushali and embraced her. Both the ladies were crying insanely. Take my son in your guidance. Take care of him. Don’t bring him up as his father. Please make him a righteous person. Vrushali requested Draupadi. Draupadi answered loudly, “His father was one of the greatest persons I have ever seen.” “I take an oath in the presence of my husbands, my mother-in-law, and every beneficent power



that I will make your Vrishketu a maharathi. He will even surpass his father and uncles in fighting prowess. He will be the Maharathi of this generation!



Chapter – 2

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“Come, my son.” “Who are you?” Vrushketu asked affectionately. “My name is Draupadi.” She took him in her arms. “My son, she is your mother now.” Vrushali intervened. Do you know, “Who is he?” “No.” “He is Arjuna.” Arjuna regained his consciousness and grabbed him in his arms. He started crying like a child, “Karna, my brother.” Time paused. “My son, do you know who I am? I am the one who has taken away your whole world from you. I am your uncle, dear.” Arjuna wiped tears and promised “Draupadi has promised your mother to make you a maharathi. And I assure you the same. You will be better than me.” “Go, my son, love her and refer to her as Mahamata. Mahamata Draupadi.” “No, I am not going with her.” He came back and embraced Vrushali. “Son, she is the one who has been chosen for you. as your first guru. Go, son, for your father’s sake.” Vrushali commanded. Yudhisthira was thrilled. Every Pandava embraced him and pampered him for a whole day. Vrushketu enters a beautiful mansion. He was amused and astonished at the same time. “Do you know who your father was?” Arjuna asked and stared at him. “Who?” He was a maharathi, actually two maharathis. And an unparalleled philanthropist. “Means? he asked back innocently. “Means? You will be like him or a greater warrior than him; after all, you are my nephew.” “What is two-maharathi? By the way.” “Mahamata will tell you.” A maharathi is a person who can defeat twelve atirathis. And an atirathi can fight twelve rathi. “And who is a rathi?” Now everyone laughed. Nakula interrupted and told him Rathi is like Sahadeva, who can fight with only five thousand warriors. “And my father was two maharathi, which means he could fight with two maharathi. Right?” “Yes.”



Arjuna replied. “Was he the best?” No, the best warrior is the Shiva. “He is a mahamaharathi.” “Please tell me more about this story; I find it interesting.” “But son, this is not a story; this is a game of power.” Can I be a mahamaharathi? “Yes, but you must win this Bhima in wrestling, and to do that, you must digest this payas.” Everyone laughed at Draupadi’s comment.

Chapter – 3

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“Wake up, Vrushu. Wake up. Mahamata Draupadi Devi is coming. We are going to visit Mahadeva Temple. “Amm! Let me sleep.” Vrushu, when we say, ‘Let me sleep,’ our destiny also sleeps with us, and it doesn’t wake with us. It sleeps indefinitely! So dear, wake up. You are going to astrashala today!” Draupadi said in an authoritative tone. “Astrashala?” “Yes! Uncle Arjuna will introduce you to your new friends. Okay! Then just give me some time. I’m getting ready. The chariot has arrived, Maharani. Let’s wait for Vrushali . Mahamata, here I am! Mother is also coming to the temple. Isn’t she?” “Yes, she is.” Draupadi replied with a charming smile. “Okay, now tell me about Mahamaharathi Mahadeva. “Please! Please! Please! Okay, Mahadeva is omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent and the most powerful god. He is a husband of Mata Parvati. He created this universe.” “No! No! No! Tell me about his power and prowess.” Okay, his power can be imagined from his astras, Trishul and Damaru. All gods together can’t face his Trishul. It is a symbol of creation, preservation, and destruction. And Damaru is the symbol of his victory over time. “Means?” Vrushketu was now even more confused. “Okay, let me tell you a story. But first, get on the chariot. There was the demon Tripurasur. Bramhdev bestowed a blessing upon him for his harsh and severe penance. Brahma bestowed on him three sky-flying cities. And he is blessed that he will not be conquered until and unless those cities are burned. Those cities can only be burned if someone shoots an arrow while they are aligned. So who killed that demon? None was able to do that, not even Vishnudev. “Then tell me who did that.” Without a doubt,



it was our Mahadeva. He did this with the assistance of the almighty Pashupatastra.

Chapter – 1

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“Is the Pashupatastra the greatest Astra?” “Yes, for human beings.” Draupadi replied. She liked the question. “Who has that Astra?” “Guess who?” “Yudhisthira uncle?” “Why, Yudhisthira Uncle?” “He is the oldest one. I like him; he is such a calm person.” But this Astra is neither for the calmest nor for the oldest person. You must obtain it directly from God Shiva by performing penance. Draupadi replied proudly. She was looking so proud; there was a spark in her eyes. “Tell me now, who has this mighty Astra?” “Only Arjuna among all Bharatvarsh warriors has this Astra.” “Only Arjuna uncle?” “Yes.” “Do you want to know the whole story?” “Yes.” He replied as he was thrilled. “So your father, Karna, and Arjuna, both were fierce warriors like lions, and engaged in a cutthroat competition.” he inquired. “But they were brothers, weren’t they?” He was surprised. “Yes, but that is another story.” “Mahamata temple has arrived.” The maid gave information. “Let

Vrushalidevi come.” “Okay, so they were lions among all warriors.” Yudhisthira uncle was afraid of Karna, so he summoned Arjuna and ordered him to obtain the pashupatastra. Draupadi continued. “Arjuna performed severe penance for five years. Lord Shiva felt compelled to confront Arjuna. Only Jarasandha had seen Lord Mahadeva in real life. Mahadeva decided to test Arjuna to determine if he was deserving of the pashupatastra. He took the test. A monster transformed into a boar and ran furiously toward Arjuna. Arjuna became aware of that and shot a deadly arrow toward the boar. At the same time that Arjuna’s arrow struck the boar, Shiva’s arrow also hit the boar. They both claimed the boar. At last they started fighting. Arjuna shot every Astra in an



attempt to kill Shiva, but each Astra worshipped Shiva instead. Now Arjuna was without any astra, so he started to fight Shiva with whatever he got, even with stones. Shiva was in disguise, so Arjuna couldn't realize that he was fighting with a stone against Shiva. Now helpless and furious, he bowed before the shivlinga and offered a garland. That garland vanished and appeared around Shiva's neck. Arjuna realized that he was fighting with Shiva. So he apologized and worshiped Shiva. Shiva came to know he was the deserving one, so he bestowed Pashupatastra on Arjuna.

Chapter – 5

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“Vrushalidevi has arrived.” Maid informed. Let’s go to the temple, Vrushu. “Mata! Mata! “Vrushu was crying and running toward Vrushali. She took him in her arms. Both were crying, but Vrushali was thrilled to see him. He was dressed in traditional Rajputra attire and wore a beautiful crown. “We are going to perform yagya; that’s why I sent a message to invite you. “Yagya?” Vrushaketu asked impatiently. “Yes, yagya.” “Does he bother you?” Vrushali asked with a smile. “No, but he reminds me of my sons. Now I got back my sons.” “Vrushu, tell your Mata what type of yagya you are going to perform.” “The best one.” Everyone laughed wholeheartedly. Vrushu, go to the priest and ask for blessings. “Yes, Mata!” Bramhandewata, what types of yagyas are there? “Come with me, and I will tell you.” The priest went into the yagyashala with Vrushketu. Look! Yagya is the zenith of Dharma. But to perform yagya is a difficult task for a king. “Do you want to perform yagya?” “Yes. But what type of yagya?” “With the help of your father, Samrat Duryodhana performed the Vaishnav yagya.” “With the help of my father?” Now Vrushketu felt pride. He was listening to the priest attentively. “Yes.” Your father won each and every kingdom of Bharatvarsh. “I want to do the same.” “You can even go further.” “Means?” At this point, he was truly engaged in a power struggle. “Perform Ashwamedha.” “Okay,” he said, becoming very sincere now. Your uncles have performed Rajsuya yagya, but it was in the past. I am sure they will go for

Ashwamedha. “Is it the best yagya?” “Yes, we can say.” “But Jarasandha did attempt to perform Narmedha.” “What is Narmedha?” “He tried to sacrifice a hundred kings.” Vasudeva saved those



kings. “If he had been successful in that, God knows what could have happened.” “Was it a very powerful yagya?” “Narmedha?” “Yes.” Trilokadhipati Ravana accomplished that during his reign.

Chapter – 6

“Vrushali, look, someone is so serious now.” “He is not uttering a word.” Draupadi teased

Vrushketu. “Not like that, but I have decided I will perform Narmedha, and I will become a greater king than my father.” “Vrushu, come here, dear.” There were tears in her eyes. “My son, always be with the god; don’t run after power. You should be a pious king, not a demon.” “God?” “Yes, do you know who is a god?” “Krishna, your brother.” “Who told you that?” “Vrushali Mata told me that Krishna is the god and he is your best friend and brother.” “Tell me about Krishna.” “Yes,

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that Krishna is the god and he is your best friend and brother.” “Tell me about Krishna.” “Yes, certainly, but first, promise me you will always be with God wholeheartedly and firmly.” “Yes, I promise.” “He is a son of Vasudeva and Devaki.” “No! No! I know that I have heard it hundreds of times.” “Tell me Astra and prowess.” “Okay, my sakha—my best friend’s weapon is the Sudarshan chakra.” “Is it invincible?” “Yes, almost!” “He killed many demons, asuras, and monsters with that chakra.” “Who gave him that chakra?” “The Shiva.” “Once upon a time Vishnu needed the deadliest weapon to kill asuras, so he started performing penance. He used to offer one thousand lotuses to Shivlinga daily. This penance continued for many yugas and cycles of yuga. One day Shiva was appeased and came to the decision to give the Sudarshan chakra to Vishnu. However, Shiva wanted to test Vishnu’s devotion. So he took one lotus from the thousand lotuses. When Vishnu Bhagawan realized it, he offered his eye to Shivlinga in the place of the lotus. Shiva was astonished and satisfied by this act, and he blessed Vishnu with the Sudarshan



chakra. “Is it totally invincible?” Vrushketu asked impatiently. “Yes, almost.” “But sometimes it fails.” “Really?” “Once the Vishnu used it against Kaavymata—mother of Shukrachary—Khyati. But she stopped this astra with her pativratya power.” He asked with curiosity. “What is that?” “You want to know everything, don’t you?” “Wait until you become that much wiser.”

Chapter - 7

““Oh! God! I am meeting a real God!” Vrushketu was dancing, and everyone was laughing. He approached Krishna and genuflected before him. Krishna took him in his arms and pampered him. “You are a god, aren’t you?” “But first tell me, who is a god?” Krishna asked him

affectionately. “I don’t know, but everyone agrees that you are a god.” “And who are you?” “I am Vrushketu, son of Karna.” “Oh, still Karna is there?” “Means?” “Who are you? Like he is pashupatastradhari, maharathi savysachi Arjuna.” “I’m a maharathi to be.” “First, tell me who Maharathi is.” “A warrior who can fight with twelve Atirathi.” Vrushketu replied. “Come here, I will elucidate you.” “There are six categories of warriors. First, an ardhharathi is someone who can fight with two thousand five hundred infantry. A rathi is equal to two ardhharathi. Like Nakula, Sahadeva, and Yudhisthira. Third is Atirathi, who can fight with twelve rathi. Like Kripacharya. The fourth one is Maharathi, like Arjuna, your father Karna, and Vrushketu. Right?” “Yes.” He felt proud. “Now listen to me, who was better than your father. Your real competitor. Who there was only one atimaharathi who is neither a god nor a son of god.” “Who?” “He was a son of demon king Ravana. His name was Meghnad or Indrajit. He managed to defeat Rama and Laxman; not only that, he defeated Devendra also.” “Was he a demon?” “Yes, and a very powerful demon.” He has all the astras, even the astras from Trimurti. Brahmasra, Narayanastra, and Pashupatastra. “Oh god.” Vrushketu was worried. He used Nagpash to defeat Laxmana. He slew many warriors, and once he even captured Hanuman with Brahmasra. He performed a harsh penance for fourteen years. He had never



slept for fourteen years and observed celibacy. [So](#) he was literally invincible. He even received a special type of chariot after releasing Devendra at Bramhadeva's request.

Chapter – 8

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“Okay, was Indrajit better than Arjuna, Uncle?” “Yes, indeed.” “Actually, he was better than any” “Okay, was Indrajit better than Arjuna, Uncle?” “Yes, indeed.” “Actually, he was better than any warrior of the Ramayana except Hanuman and Ram. Laxman was also no match for him. Your uncle Arjuna doesn’t have Narayanastra, not even Vaishnavastra. Indrajit did have all astras, including Nagapash. “So who killed him?” “Alternatively, he ruled for an infinite time.” “Laxman, brother of Rama, somehow managed to kill him with the help of Vibhishan.” “Narayanastra?” “Arjuna, Uncle, you don’t have Narayanastra?” “No, dear.” “But I fought with the demon who has it.” “Demon ? Who was he?” “I don’t want to take his name. Ask your Krishna uncle.”

Ashwatthama has the Narayanastra as well as the Brahmastra. “Do you want to listen to the story of Narayanastra?” “Bhimsen, shall I recite?” “Sure, Vasudeva.” Everyone laughed. “ On the fifteenth day of the Mahabharata, Guru Drona was destroying the Pandava army like fire destroys grass. Bhima killed an elephant named Ashwatthama and shouted loudly that he killed

Ashwatthama. As soon as Draunacharya listened to it, he went into meditation to learn the truth. As he put down his bow, Dhrustdhumn beheaded him. As Ashwatthama listened to that his father was killed by treachery, he became as furious as a cobra. Ashwatthama unleashed his secret weapon. It took the form of a luminous disc. As you fought with the disc more furiously, it became more devastating. There is no antidote for this, Astra. It is another form of Narayana. There is only one way to get rid of this Astra: to surrender. So we all surrendered, but Bhima didn’t. He started fighting more fiercely. And Astra took the form of death.



Somehow we managed to pull down Bhima from the chariot after Bhima genuflected and pacified it. And Ashwatthama went to camp assuming he was victorious.



Chapter – 9

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“But do you know, Vrushu, there was a tussle among maharathis to get a brahmastra? Actually, without a brahmastra, a maharathi is not a maharathi. So there were three maharathi who were in competition to achieve the power of brahmastra.” “Who were they?” “Uncle Arjuna, Maharathi Karna, and Guruputra Ashwatthama. All of them were empowered to unleash brahmastra, but Karna was cursed, and Ashwatthama didn’t have the knowledge to call back brahmastra, so Arjuna was the only warrior who had the right to brahmastra in real life.” Guru Drona didn’t want to give this knowledge of brahmastra to Arjuna. He had saved this weapon for Ashwatthama, but Arjuna was Arjuna; he was adamant about getting the knowledge. Arjuna received this Astra knowledge due to his favoritism, while Ashwatthama received it due to his close relationship with his father. But Suryaputra Karna was not that fortunate. He was not a so-called Kshatriya, so Drona refused to give him an Astra. But Karna wanted this weapon in his quiver. He headed toward Mahendra Giri to pacify an ocean. And an ocean was so powerful that Karna became a part of that ocean.” “Ocean?” “Yes, Vrushu, an ocean.” Its name was Parashurama. Karna became his pupil. Karna was not just a pupil; he was Parashurama’s favorite one. However, Karna deceived Parashurama in his pursuit of becoming a warrior skilled in the use of brahmastra. Parashurama had taken an oath to give the knowledge of brahmastra to only Brahmins. Indra knew that Karna was the only match for Arjuna, so he played a nasty game. Lord Parashurama fell asleep on Karna’s lap. Indra transformed into an insect and penetrated his thigh. Karna bore a pain, but Lord



Parashurama understood that he was not Brahmin. So he cursed
Suryputra that he will forget this Astra when he needs it most.

Chapter – 10

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“Now I come to know about all the astras of Trimurti.” “Yes, but are you aware that there is one more Astra called the Trimurti Astra?” “Which one?” “Vaishnavastra, Arjuna replied. “Did my father have that Astra?” “No, neither Karna nor I had that Astra.” “Then who did have that Astra?” “Dear Vrushu, Bhagadatta, a king of Pragjyotishpur, did have that Astra. He inherited the Astra from his father, Narakasur.” Actually, he was a very fierce warrior, and he was famous for two things: one is Vaishnavastra, and the other is Supratika, a mighty elephant. I had listened to many war stories about him in my childhood, but I encountered him in a war during the Rajasuy Yagya campaign. He was a really brave warrior. I had fought with him for eight days, but I couldn’t defeat him. As he was a friend of my father, Indra, he accepted defeat and the invitation of Yagya broadmindedly.” “But there was one warrior who defeated him.” “Who was he?” “Your father.” “When Karna was on the mission of Digvijay, he was able to defeat Bhagadatta.” “Karna was the one who could defeat both invincible warriors, Bhagadatta and Jarasandha. Bhagadatta was very old when he fought in the Mahabharata War. The face and body were covered with many wrinkles, and he always wore a silk cloth so that the skin of the eyebrows would not be in front of the eyes. He was always riding on an elephant named Supratika. He defeated Ghattkocho and Bhima several times. He realized that he could never defeat me, as Krishna’s protection ensured my victory. He unleashed Vaishnavastra, and I had no answer for that Astra. But there was a Krishna who stood before me, and that Astra became a garland and worshiped Krishna.

Chapter - 11

“Vrushu, there is one more powerful Astra. Its name is Bhargavastra. Have you heard about it?” “Yes, Vrushali Mata told me that it was a blessing of Lord Parashurama to my father.” “Yes, dear, now listen to the most heartbreaking story.” After performing Vaishnav yagya, Karna became a hero and outstanding support for King Duryodhana. However, since he did not know the brahmastra, he approached Guru Dronacharya for guidance, but Drona refused to teach him this knowledge. So he went to Mahendragiri to satisfy Guru Parashurama and to learn Brahmasra from him. He became a favorite pupil of Parashurama, and one day Parashurama bestowed knowledge of the brahmastra on him. Now Indra became terrified as Karna became a greater warrior than Arjuna. So he took the form of a bee and got through Karan’s thigh when Lord Parashurama was resting in his lap. ““You have told me this story, Uncle.” “Yes, but listen to what happened next.” As soon as Parashurama cursed Karna that, in a moment of utmost need, he would forget Brahmasra, he felt guilty. He meditated and introspected, and he came to know that Karna was a son of Mata Kuntidevi and the sun god. He repented and blessed Karna with his invincible bow, Vijay, and Bhargavasra. He also blessed Karna that his glory will be sung on the earth until the end of the world. In the Kurukshetra war, Karna unleashed this weapon against Arjuna, and Arjuna had to run away. It was one of the mightiest Astras; only warriors from the Bhrgu clan had known it, and only Karna was an exception. It was made up of the virtuous powers of Bhrgu. It can shower different astras and discs on an enemy. When Karna unleashed this Astra, no one could counter it. So it made Karna invincible.

Chapter - 12

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“Come here, Vrushu, Yudhisthira said in tears. I am going to tell you the heartbreaking story of my elder brother and your father, Karna. He was a son of the Sun God. He had an inborn gift of kavach kundala. He stood out because of this special gift. It was so beautiful that your father shone like God himself. It was not only a shining gift, but it also protected him from any astra or weapon. On one hand I actually loved it, and on the other hand I was afraid of it. No one could penetrate that kavach with any Astra. Lord Indra was adamant about taking that kavach from him, and the sun god was its protector. Karna was the philanthropist and was known for this virtue. So one day Lord Indra went to Karna in disguise. He took the form of a Brahmin and stood before Karna. Karna had known that Indra was coming to cheat on him. But he laughed and asked for his wish. ‘You can take anything from me, Brahmin, except my dharma.’ Indra asked for kavach kundal, and Karna gave him his inborn kavach kundal happily. Because of this unparalleled donation, Indra felt that his glory would diminish, so he bestowed Karna with a boon. And a boon was Vasavi Shakti, the second most devastating weapon of Lord Indra. Karna always thought to kill Arjuna with that Shakti. Now he has only two weapons against Arjuna; one of them is Vasavi Shakti. But in the war at Kurukshetra, Ghatotkacha, a son of Bhima, created havoc among the Kaurava army. Drona and Ashwatthama did their best to protect the army, but everything was in vain. So they requested Karna to unleash that power against Ghatotkacha. Duryodhana also obliged Karna. Because of Krishna’s cunning politics, he had to use that Shakti against Ghatotkacha.

Chapter - 13

“After the use of Vasavi Shakti, now Karna was no match for Arjuna.” But there was another weapon in his armor, and it was Nagastra. Karna used to have one arrow dipped in sandalwood oil. He worshiped it every day. It was a special gift from his guru. That arrow possesses the ability to summon Nagastra. The arrow was so powerful that it could definitely destroy the target upon impact. No one except Karna had it in their possession. On the sixteenth day, Karna unleashed that Astra against Arjuna; surprisingly, there was one snake who embarked on the Astra. When Karna invoked the Astra, his charioteer came to know that it was the deadliest one, and he tried to disturb him, as the charioteer was not in favor of Karna. Krishna smelled the threat. But he was ready. As soon as the Astra approached, Krishna realized that Arjuna had no antidote for it, so he bent the horses down to their knees, causing the Astra to miss its target. The throne of Arjuna was on fire. The snake approached Karna and told him a story about Khandawvan. Arjuna and Krishna planned the city of Indraprastha and set the entire Khandavprastha jungle on fire during their construction. The entire Aswasena snake clan perished in the fire. As a result, the Aswasena sought revenge and attempted to kill Arjuna. Ashwasena begged Karna to invoke Astra once more. But Karna refused to do so, as he couldn't take help from others to kill Arjuna. Karna was sure that it was against his dharma. But Snake was very furious, and he attacked Arjuna. With three arrows, Arjuna cut him in pieces. Karna lost his last chance as Krishna was successful in saving Arjuna. Now Karna was not the warrior who could challenge Arjuna. Now, Karna found himself subservient to destiny.

Chapter – 14

“Mahamata has arrived, Vrushu.” “Mahamata! Mahamata! Vrushu embraced Mahamata. “Vrushu, how many astras do you know?” “Almost all astras, Mahamata.” “Okay, do you know about Vajra?”

“No, Mahamata.” “Now listen to me.” “There are 33 gods—eleven Rudras, eight Vasus, twelve Adityas, Prajapati, and Indra. Indra is the head of all gods. He has many divine astras in his command. Vajra is one of the divine astras. We can say Vajra is the most powerful Astra Indra has.” Tvashtr, a Prajapati, used to hate Indra. He was considered the guardian of Soma. As he was a hater of Indra, he performed a harsh penance to have a son who was better than Indra. He was bestowed a son called Trishira. Trishira had three heads. Trishira was very sharp. He was both fierce and intellectual. He grew powerful and performed penance to become more powerful. Indra became frightened of him and sent Apsaras (nymphs) to seduce him and broke his penance. However, Trishira was unaffected, and Indra went to him and killed him. Now Tvashtr was furious, and he performed penance again and had a son, Vrittasura. Vrittasura defeated Indra in a war. So Indra went to Brahmddev to ask for a weapon. Brahma remembered Dadhichi Rishi, who was an ardent devotee of Shiva. He was the first one who left Daksh Yag after an insult to Mata Sati. Lord Shiva bestowed upon him the blessing that his bones would remain unbroken and grow stronger. Indra approached Dadhichi and asked for bones. Thinking about the greater good, Dadhichi was ready to sacrifice his life. Using his spiritual powers, he left his body and died for Devas. Using his spine, Devendra made an Astra called Vajra. He became a friend of Vrittasura, and



through treachery and the power of Vajra, he killed Vrittasura. Afterwards, it evolved into Indra's most potent weapon. With the help of Vajra, Indra has slain many asuras."

Chapter - 15

“Vrushu, come here, dear.” Mahamata called Vrushu with love. As Vrushu approached Kunti Mata, Kunti Mata pampered him. He asked Mata why Uncle Yudhisthira is called Samrat. And what do you mean by Samrat? Kunti Devi was thrilled by his curiosity. She thought it was the right time to explain and elucidate to him all concepts of politics. She took him to a beautiful temple in a palace garden. The garden was surrounded with beautiful small palaces. Vrushu was waiting for her. For a while, she was donating gold coins to Brahmins. “Vrushu, my baby, let me explain some upadhis to you.” “Samrat, Chakravarti, Baldev, PratiVasudev, and Vadudev are the ranks of great people. To achieve these ranks, you must conquer a vast empire and perform numerous yagyas.” Samrat is the one who rules over all Bharat Khand. Samrat Jarasandha, Samrat Duryodhana, and now Uncle Yudhisthira are some of them. Chakravarti are the emperors who have chakra in their possession. A divine chakra appears in their shastrashala, and they win over all the dwipas. Vasudeva is a god himself who has all the signs of a god. They are also called devadeva. Those signs are the mace, Sudarshan chakra, dhanushya (bow), tirak (arrow), flower garland, mani (gem), and conch. Baldev is a brother or a person who helps Vasudeva. Vasudeva vanquishes Prativasudeva, the villain. Prativasudeva is a villain who is known for his might but also for wicked deeds. King Bharat was a Chakravarti Samrat. While Krishna was Vasudeva. Baldeva was

Balrama, and Jarasandha was Prativasudeva. Many people consider King Poundrak to be

Prativasudeva. There is also one character depicted in our history



that is the incarnated JayaVijaya. King Shishupal and King Dantavakra were Jay and Vijay in our time. “Vrushu, dear, have you understood all these upadhis?” “Yes, Mahamata.” “But who is the greatest one?” “Obviously, Vasudeva.”

Chapter - 16

32

“Mahamata I want to ask one thing: why does Yudhisthira’s uncle call everyone with a special name?” “Like Satyapratidnya Pitamah, Danveer Karna, etc.” “Son, Yudhisthira is a very humble person; he even used to call Duryodhana ‘Suyodhana.’ When he refers to someone by a name like Satyapratidnya, it indicates that he believes that person deserves that title. “Really?” Vrushu asked with surprise. “Was Pitamah Bhishma really satyapratidnya?” “Yes, certainly!” Mahamata replied. Tell me about him. Pitamah was a son of Devi Ganga and King Shantanu. He was a cursed Vasu. He was the eighth son of Vasu, one of the gods. In his previous birth he stole a cow from the legendary Rishi Vasishta, so he cursed him to be born as a human. He had been a wonderful person since his childhood. He was trained in war art by Lord Parashurama; he was one of the warriors who could defeat him. “Oh god! He defeated Lord Parashurama, the guru of my father.” “Yes.” Tell me the full story. Pitamah Bhishma’s father wanted to marry Satyavati, but Maharani Satyavati stipulated that her son would rule Hastinapur as a king. So Pitamah took an oath of celibacy. His father blessed him for this deed, ensuring that the goddess of death could not touch him without his consent. He was the only one who had never broken any oath, even by mistake. Pitamah abducted the princess of Kashi Amba during the swayamvara ritual. By force, he took her and her sisters to Hastinapur. “Abducted? Wasn’t it harmful and immoral?” Vrushu asked. “No, according to dharma, it was okay to abduct a princess in swayamvara.” Ambika and Ambalika got married to Prince Vichitravirya. But Amba wanted to marry another king named Shalv. Bhishma took her to him, but he rejected her be-

cause she was abducted by Bhishma, and according to dharma, now Bhishma had a right to her. She asked Bhishma to marry her. However, due to Bhishma's celibacy vow, he turned down her request. She was also adamant, so she went to Parashurama for help. Parashurama agreed to help her. He called Pitamah and asked him to marry her. But it was against his oath, so he denied politely. Because of this, they started fighting a dual war. At last, with the help of Praswapan Astra, Pitamah defeated Lord Parashurama. Even after that, no one could break any of his oaths. He had taken an oath to protect Hastinapur, so none were able to defeat Hastinapur under his protection. When Krishna took an oath to not take any weapon in his hand, it was Bhishma Pitamah who took a counter-oath to make Krishna do that. And he made Krishna helpless to break his vow. He also took an oath to not fight with any woman. He accepted the defeat at the hands of Amba but never broke his vow. So Yudhisthira always calls him satyapratidnya.



Chapter - 17

34

“And why does he call my father Danveer?” “Because he was indeed a philanthropist.” “My son Karna was blessed by Indra that his glory and fame would be unparalleled and timeless.” When he won all of Bharatvarsh in the Digvijay campaign, he got a lot of booty. Samrat Duryodhana bestowed a lot of booty on him. Karna started a new endeavor to donate whatever he earned. Brahmins had the freedom to request anything, except for his dharma. One day, one Brahmin asked for wood because he wanted to perform the funeral of his son, but it was rainy season, and Karna didn’t have it. Karna was struck by a thought; he went straight to the bedroom. He broke the golden-wooden bed and gave it to the Brahmin in donation. His glory and fame reached their zenith. Everyone knew that Karna is a real philanthropist. Indra, who is Arjuna’s father, took advantage of Karna’s philanthropic nature. To save Arjuna, he came in the disguise of a Brahmin and asked for his Kavach and Kundal. Karna had learned the truth about Indra from his father, the sun god. But then also he gave away his kavach kundala. Kavach Kundala was the inborn gift for him from his father, the sun god. No astra or shastra could penetrate that armor. And it was so beautiful and unique. Actually, it was a part of his body. He experienced a lot of pain while he tore it apart. But he was adamant. Everyone was astonished, as everyone knew the power of Kavach Kundal. Indra was pleased by his act and gave back one astra.” “Yes, Vasavi Shakti. Right?” “Yes, one more incident, dear. When he was on his deathbed, he did a great deed. Arjuna asked Krishna why he admires Karna so much. To prove his point, Krishna transformed into a Brahmin and took Arjuna with him. They went straight to



Karna. Krishna started crying and asked everyone for a donation for his son's funeral. Karna listened to it and asked the Brahmin what he wanted. Brahmin asked for money. Without a second thought, Karna asked him to bring a stone. As he brought the stone, Karna broke his golden tooth with it. He handed the tooth to Brahmin, but Brahmin declined to accept it due to its blood-soaked state. Karna started crying, and with the help of tears, he washed the tooth. Now Arjuna was astonished and ashamed, and he bowed before Karna. He attained a place in heaven because of his deeds. Only Mahadeva is a greater philanthropist than him. He also gave me a boon that he would not kill any Pandava except Arjuna. He promised me that he would use the mighty Nagastra only once. I am the blessed one who got Karna as a son.

Chapter - 18

“Was my father a decent person?” “Why do you ask this question again and again, Vrushu?”

Vrushu started crying. Mahamata took him in her arms and said, “He was my best son among all.” He was the one whom I love most. Everyone did injustice to him. Even I was unjust to him. He had fought with destiny until death. Even after the death, some people call him a villain.” He was the one who saved all my sons. People hold him responsible for both Draupadi’s Vastraharan and the death of my beloved Abhimanyu. Yes, he was guilty, but he did all the evil karmas to get rid of Duryodhana’s favors. He lived and died only to pay back Duryodhana. He was the lion among wolves. “Yes, indeed. And it was all because of me.” “Do you know Vrushu? Who was he in his last birth?” Our rajpurohit has told the story. Karna was Swedaja, and Arjuna was Raktaja. Svedaja, an aspect of Brahma, was born with a thousand shields, a bow, and armor. Raktaja, an aspect of Vishnu, was born with a thousand arms, five hundred bows, one armor, and a

crown. Svedaja and Raktaja fought a fierce battle that lasted for a year or more. Svedaja, that is, my Karna, nearly defeated Raktaja, but Vishnu intervened, and the battle stopped there. By then, Svedaja had lost all but one shield, and Raktaja had only his arms. God Sun took care of Swedaja, and Indra was a protector of Raktaja. In their subsequent births as Karna and Arjuna, Karna was born with armor and became a powerful warrior. On the other hand, Arjuna became Nara, the counter soul of Vishnu. He helped Vishnu in the battle to uphold Dharma. They met again on the battlefield of Kurukshetra, with Arjuna ultimately defeating Karna with the help of Mahavishnu.

Chapter - 19

“Mahamata, Krishna uncle is a god, and my father knew that. Then why did he fight against him?” “What favors did Duryodhana do to him that made him fight against Krishna, Uncle?” “Yes, that is a very important question you have asked.” When Krishna went for Sandhi to Hastinapur, he asked for a truce between two sides. But Duryodhana said that he wouldn’t give any part of the kingdom, not even five villages, to the Pandavas.” During the return journey, Krishna asked Karna to accompany him. Krishna became the charioteer, and they were gossiping. Suddenly Krishna stopped. Both of them went to the shore of Ganga. Karna was taken aback when Krishna was staring at him. Krishna continued by stating that he wanted Karna to join him, as this was the only way to prevent the war. He said, “Look, Karna, this is going to be a deadly war, and you can stop it. Duryodhana believes in your capabilities more than Bhishma’s. He believes in you and your aura. You know well you all did injustice to the Pandavas, as well as you know that Yudhisthira deserves to be a real Samrat. Duryodhana, the wicked one, is not the right person to rule this world. Karna laughed and replied, “Krishna, had you told me this before, I would have listened to you, but it’s too late. Even my soul submits to Samrat Duryodhana. “Dear Karna, you don’t know one thing: you are absolutely unaware of the fact that you are the eldest Pandava.” “What are you saying? You are lying for Pandawa.” “No, Karna, it’s the truth.” “No!” Karna was in tears. “Why did you tell me this now?” “What the hell I did, Krishna? I insulted Draupadi; I have hated Arjun all my life.” Please say you are lying.” “No, Karna, it’s the truth.” Krishna replied, looking straight into Karna’s eyes.

Chapter – 20

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Krishna continued, “Karna, you are a real warrior who not only has fought fiercely in wars but also has fought with destiny.” “Dear, you are my favorite. “You are a son of Mata Kunti and the god Sun.” You are not a son of Suta, as you assume. “Your mother was blessed with a boon.” “I know that, Krishna, but I am the son of the sun god.” I didn’t know this. I consider myself a simple human who doesn’t have the right to a weapon. Everyone calls me Sutputra.” “Look, Karna, if the world had known the fact, they would have called you Kanin, a person born before marriage.” Yes, Krishna, I would have also faced hatred.” Oh! Karna My dear, a person can’t be defined by his clan or by his caste. You are Duryodhana’s army’s Senapati, Lord Parashuram’s favorite pupil, and a renowned philanthropist. That’s your identity, Karna, at least in my heart. You are a friend of Duryodhana, a real friend, but for Duryodhana, you are an invincible weapon earned by his cunningness. Karna, my favorite, I must warn you: if you stay with Duryodhana, you’re doomed.

And you must know that. Right?” “Yes, Krishna. I know you are a god, and where





you reside, dharma is there. And where dharma resides, victory is there.” For some time there was silence; only the river flow could be heard. Karna sat down under a tree and was lost in deep thoughts. As a lion, he awoke and approached Krishna. He was neither crying nor mumbling. He told Krishna, “I will fight for Duryodhana, and I know Pandawa will win; that’s what I want too. I am going to embrace death and will get rid of Duryodhana’s favors. I will hug my brothers in heaven.

Chapter - 21

“Mahamata, you told me that my father was guilty of Draupadi Vastraharan and Abhimanyu’s deaths.

What really happened?”

“Dear, long ago, some cruel people tried to disrobe Mata Draupadi in assembly.”

“Who were they? I am going to kill them.”

Draupadi Mata is my mother.”

“Come here, dear. Who told you that Draupadi Mata is your mother?” He replied with innocence.

“Mata Vaishali told me that now you are the only son of Mata Draupadi.”

“But who are they? Cowards!”

“My sons killed them all, dear, but if it happens again, you must kill the culprits.” “Yes, sure.”

“But why was my father was with them? Or he did that.”

“No, listen to me,”

“Draupadi insulted your father in the assembly, calling him sut-putra. Additionally, on one occasion, she insulted Duryodhana by referring to him as the son of a blind man.

So they took revenge.”

However, it is crucial to maintain a woman’s chastity at all costs. She could have cursed them, but King Dhritarashtra intervened. Do you know who saved her from that insult?

“Who?”

“Krishna uncle.”



“Really?”

“Now Uncle Krishna is my favorite one.” “Arjuna took an oath to kill Karna.

Bhima did the same; he vowed to kill all Kauravas.

He also said that he will break Duryodhana’s thigh and will drink Dushasana’s blood.

Sahadeva swore to kill Shakuni.

As they swore their oaths, they also vowed to carry out their intentions.

There was no one who protested, including Bhishma, Drona, and other wise people.

Only Vikarna and Vidura protested like gods.

They were truly the lions among the crows.

“But Bhishma Pitamah was a righteous person. He could stop anyone, as he was a maharathi and had known many Astra.”

“Yes, he could, and he was able to, too.

But remain quiet.

That’s why Draupadi doesn’t like him, though he is everyone’s ideal.”

Chapter – 22

42

“Who killed Abhimanyu? My father?” “Mahamata, tell me.” “That day was marked by destiny’s shame.” “The Pandawa was exiled long ago. Jaydratha abducted Draupadi Mata. But Arjuna and Bhima chased him and ridiculed him. His half beard and hair were shaved. He was ashamed of himself. To take revenge, he started penance. Mahadeva was pleased and manifested before him. Jaydrath asked him for a boon that one day he will be able to defeat all the Pandavas. Mahadeva told him it is not possible to defeat Arjuna, but for only one day he will defeat all the Pandavas except Arjuna. When Abhimanyu was in the womb, Krishna was driving a chariot, and Subhadra was listening to him. Subhadra asked him about Chakravyuha. Krishna was explaining everything regarding chakravyuh. Abhimanyu was also listening to him. But when Krishna realized that Subhadra had fallen asleep, he stopped narrating. So Abhimanyu learned how to break the chakravyuh but couldn’t understand how to come out of it. On the 13th day of the Mahabharata war, Drona promised Duryodhana that he would kill one Pandava that day if Duryodhana kept Arjuna at bay. Duryodhana’s friends, the kings of Trigarta Sushama, and his brothers challenged Arjuna for a duel. Arjuna accepted the challenge. Arjuna was the one on the Pandava side who knew how to get out of Chakravyuh. Now Yudhisthira was astonished by Drona’s move. When he was thinking about the chakravyuh, suddenly Abhimanyu came for his rescue. Abhimanyu told the Pandavas that he knows how to break Chakravyuh but doesn’t know how to come out of it. Bhima and all the Pandawa were thrilled. They promised Abhimanyu that they would support him and follow him in the vyuh. The Pandavas were quite confident



about the outcome. But Jaydratha was there for a surprise. Abhimanyu succeeded in breaking the chakravyuh's mouth as he approached it, but Jaydratha intervened to stop the Pandavas. Everyone was surprised by his fierce act and valour. The Pandawas were doing their best to conquer Jaydratha but failed to do so. Abhimanyu alone approached the center of Vyuh. Abhimanyu was fighting like a lion; he crushed the vyuh and defeated every warrior. He killed Laxman, son of Duryodhana. In his rage, Duryodhana approached Drona, who then commanded every warrior to kill Abhimanyu by any means necessary. Karna was surprised by his command but followed the same. He broke the string of Abhimanyu's bow by attacking him from the backside. Ashwatthama and Kripa did the same. They fought him with treachery. Treachery played its game well, and at last Abhimanyu was helpless. Every warrior was fighting with Abhimanyu. He was surrounded by maharathis. Drona, Karna, Ashwatthama, and Kripa were all involved in the battle. Abhimanyu was adamant and fighting furiously with everyone. Somehow the Kaurava warrior started dominating the battle. They were able to disarm Abhimanyu, but Abhimanyu started fighting with the wheel of a chariot. Finally there was a duel between the son of Dushasan and Abhimanyu. Both fell unconscious, but Dushasan's son regained consciousness first. He killed Abhimanyu when he was unconscious.

Jaydratha arrived at the scene and kicked Abhimanyu in the head. That marked the end of both the day and warrior Abhimanyu's life. Mahamata was in tears.

Chapter – 23

“Vrishali Mata told me that my father killed Ghattkocha, though he knew that he was his nephew.” “Yes, indeed.” “My son, the war was like that only.” “No one was anyone’s nephew, son, or father.” It was a dharmayuddh.” Arjuna defeated Pitamah, and Bhima killed all the sons of Dhritarashtra.

Karna and others killed Abhimanyu. Karna killed Ghatatkochoo too. “Please tell me the story.” “When we were in exile, Bhima encountered a Rakshas called Hidimbi. In that encounter, Hidimbi’s sister, Hidimbi, helped Bhima. She was in love with Bhima. As time passed by, they had a son whose name was Ghatatkocho. He arrived to support the Pandavas when the Mahabharata war broke out. From the first day he created havoc in the Kaurava army; none other than Alambusha and Bhagadatta could confront him. He was an expert in mayayuddh. Ghatatkocho killed

Alambusha on the 14th day. At that point, Ghatatkocho had no match in the Kaurava army. Ashwatthama’s killing of Anjanparva, Ghatatkocho’s son, infuriated him. He started fighting more fiercely; no one could stand before him. He invoked the astras using the power of illusion. Everyone got scared by him, including Drona and Karna. But somehow Ashwatthama defeated him, and he fell unconscious. When he woke up, he fought more fiercely. After the death of Jayadratha on Day 14, with the battle continuing past sunset, Ghatatkocho truly shined; his powers were at their most effective at night, as demons’ abilities are heightened. He was able to kill a large number of the army. He utterly destroyed the Kaurava side. The Pandava side got thrilled by his valour. Even Arjuna had never brought havoc like him. Drona and Ashwatthama felt helpless; they requested Karna to un-



leash Vasavi Shakti upon Ghatatkocho. But Karna rejected their request, but when Duryodhana argued that Karna didn't do the same, war was ending that day. So Karna killed Ghatatkocho by using Vasavi Shakti.

Chapter – 21

“Did my father run away when he faced Gandharv? And was he defeated by Drupad;

And Vrushali Mata told me that he was defeated by Arjuna Uncle in the Virat War. Is it true?” “Long ago when the Pandavas were in exile, the Kaurava wanted to tease them. They journeyed to the Pandavas’ dwelling place. They were accompanied by beautiful women servants and an army. They wanted to show their wealth to the Pandawas. They wanted to show Pandawa how they are enjoying their life. They were enjoying their so-called campaign in the river, which was populated by Gandharvas. Lord Indra specially guided Gandharva for this task. Gandharv started a quarrel, and that quarrel ended in a war. The war began, and all the combatants fought fiercely. Gandharva overpowered everyone except Karna. Karna was fighting like a lion and was protected by Kavach-kundal. Gandharva started fighting maya yudhh. Karna smelled a rat and decided to run away. He wanted to ask for an army, as the Gandharvas were well prepared. Yes, he ran away.

When Yudhisthira came to know about the matter, he sent Arjuna and Bhima to combat Gandharva. They successfully defeated Gandharva. When they rescued Duryodhana, he was ashamed, and on the return journey, he met Karna, who was coming back to fight with Gandharva, accompanied by a big army. Some people say that Karna took his revenge in the Digvijay campaign by defeating Gandharva.

When he was on a campaign for Digvijay, he also gave a return gift to Drupad. Indeed, a king Drupad defeated Karna, and Karna in turn defeated Drupad.

But in the Virat war, Arjuna was a victor. Undoubtedly, Arjuna emerged victorious. He defeated Karna; at least he fainted for some time.

But the point is no one is omnipotent. Throughout history, Indrajit has defeated numerous warriors, including Rama. Asuras also emerged victorious over Vishnu.



Chapter – 25

48

“Do you know, Vrushu, your father won a swayamwar for King Duryodhana?” “Really?” “Yes, there was a swayamwar for Princess Bhanumati. All the kings and princes gathered at the swayamwar to compete for Bhanumati’s hand in marriage. As suggested by Karna, Duryodhana abducted Bhanumati, and Karna fought with all the warriors alone. As he defeated many warriors princess and kings. Samrat Jarasandh challenged him for dual. He defeated Samrat Jarasandha there. He secured his friendship in the process. It was really a proud moment for Hastinapur. But one thing was permanent in my son’s life: that is struggle. Struggle is another name for my son’s life. Truly he was not only a great warrior and philanthropist but also a real struggler. He won a war against destiny. Dear Vrushu, we can say Karna was the son of the sun indeed.” “Mahamata, was my father a hero or villain?” “Dear, can one word judge a personality like him?” He was born before my marriage, so I abandoned him. He was brought up by Adhiratha, a Suta. He was always taunted by his clan name. He was rejected as a student by Drona. He became a favorite pupil of Lord Parashuram, but at last he also cursed him. Duryodhana made him king, but it was dirty politics. He was insulted by Draupadi Mata, but even worse, he took revenge on her. He will be remembered not only because of his good deeds but also for his maleficent acts. He sided with Duryodhana and always hated the Pandavas, especially Arjuna. There was always a duel between both of them. Arjuna did penance to appease Shiva, and Karna approached Lord Parashuram. There had been a tussle between them. Both were lions and had unending envy. When I begged him for my sons, he assured me that he will not kill



any Pandava except Arjuna. He was Digvijayi Karna, and why not? I was blessed to have a son like him. He donated his kavach kundal without a second thought. He agreed not to use Nagastra twice. He had Vasavi Shakti; that was his only hope, but he lost it upon Ghatatkocho. He always believed that Duryodhana was his only true friend and sacrificed his life for him. He killed my dear Abhimanyu only to please Duryodhana. He insulted Draupadi and became a villain. “Dear, Drona and Bhishma always underrated him; even Drona called him ‘Gurudrohi.’” Bhishma didn’t want a fight between brothers, so he called him Ardhraathi. He became king because of Duryodhana and repaid him significantly, including the sacrifice of his dharma. He won Bharatvarsh and bestowed glory over Duryodhana. He won Duryodhana a wife. What I can say, dear, truth is that he defeated Jarasandha, Bhagadatta, and Drupada. And then also he was called by the name Suta-putra Ardhraathi. Krishna, Bhishma, and I approached him, even I was also unjust to him. He was the eldest and remained the eldest.

Chapter – 26

“Arjuna uncle said he couldn’t have killed my dad without curses and Shalya.” Really, Mahamata?”

“Yes, dear.”

As I told you before, Karna was cursed by his guru, Parashuram, and he was also cursed by a Brahmin. He resided on Mahendra Mountain alongside his guru. One day he went for hunting. He was practicing shabdvedhi.”

“Shabdvedhi? What is that?”

“Shabdvedhi is a skill of an archer to penetrate the target only listening to the voice.

He was practicing that talent.”

“He took an appropriate pose and was waiting for an animal. There was a bustle in the greens. He took aim and unleashed an arrow. That arrow was directed towards Bustle. When he regained consciousness, he was filled with fear. It was a cow. He did a sin. A Brahmin came to him with a great cry.

He was going to curse Karna. Karna bowed before him very politely. Karna was helpless; he offered the Brahmin a thousand cows, but everything was in vain. The Brahmin cursed him because he had killed his mother cow when she was helpless. “Your enemy will kill you when you are in a helpless state.” Mahamata started to cry.

Tears couldn’t be controlled.

“There was one more instance; in another case, he was riding a chariot when a girl suddenly appeared in his path.” The girl dropped the bowl of clarified butter, but the charioteer managed



to stop. Karna got down and offered a bowl of butter to the child, but the girl refused and insisted on the same butter, as she had a cruel stepmother.

Karna bowed down and tried with all his strength to pull the entire portion of butter. Bhūmimata feared a lot and cursed Karna that he will not be able to pull his wheel from the earth.”

And it was not enough; he got a charioteer who always disheartened him. Shalya, Nakul’s uncle, on the request of Yudhisthira, always insulted and humiliated Karna. Although he was a skilled charioteer, he could not compete with Krishna.

He failed to protect Karna even refused to get down to pull out the mud-rooted wheel of a chariot. It was a real insult to Karna. Karna was the one who pushed back Arjuna’s chariot while Lord Hanuman was present, and Lord Krishna served as the protector of the chariot. Their presence was the real protection of Arjuna.

Chapter – 27

“I want to ask you something, Mahamata.”

“Yes, dear.”

“My father was a son of the sun god.”

“And he had Kavach Kundal tell me the whole story of his birth.”

“Okay, dear.”

“There was a very able Rishi named Durvasa. Once he thought to win over Panchbuta.” “Panchbhuta?”

“Yes, dear.”

He referred to the earth, the air, the water, the fire, and the sky.

He came to my father, Kuntibhoj, and asked for me to serve him. I was barely sixteen years old. My father agreed, and he summoned me to serve Lord Durvasa. Lord Durvas was famous for his anger; if I had made any mistake, he could have cursed me. I served him with all my abilities. Day and night, rain and winter, anytime I had to be there, he could ask for anything: water, fire, maybe a piece of meat, or a bowl of blood. Anything. After a long period he appeased all Bhutas, and he became euphoric. He called me and ordered me to sit next to him. Without my permission, he bestowed on me a boon that I would be able to summon panch dewata and would get a son from each one. The son would be a famous warrior.

He left as he came. I can't say he left; he vanished like the god, not only from our state but also from my life.

I was just a sixteen-year-old maiden, but I was thrilled that I would be a mother of warriors. I was in little doubt. So I summoned the sun god by chanting a mantra. The sun god manifested before me and blessed me with a part of his divine essence,



known as Ansha. A part of him was then in my womb.

I asked the sun god for the Kavach Kundal. My son would have it. He blessed the same. I was not married; I was scared that I would be boycotted. None would believe in Lord Durvasa's boon. I remained with my servant Dhatri in one unknown place. As your father was born, I abandoned him. He was a son of the sun. My son was not mine but the son of destiny.

After marriage I got Yudhisthira from Dharma.

I received Bhima from Vayu and Arjuna from Indra.

I gave one mantra to Queen Madri.

She was blessed by Ashwinkumar and got twins Nakul-Sahade-
awa.

Chapter – 28

“Why does Mata Draupadi hate Ashwatthama?” Arjuna’s uncle doesn’t even take his name.

“Was he so bad?”

“Yes, Vrushu.”

“If you ask me who was the villain of Mahabharata, I will take his name.

Ashwatthama is the worst living creature in this world.”

“Why is that so?”

“I want to know.”

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“Once upon a time there were two close knits; one was Drona and the other was Drupad. Both were pupils of Rishi Agnivesha. Drona was a poor Brahmin, and Drupad was a prince. They were such a close friends that they ate together and lived together. Once, while they were gossiping, the prince promised Drona that he would give him half of the empire when he became king. Drona was thrilled and considered himself blessed. After completing their formal education, Drona and Drupad returned to their respective homes. Drupad became king, and Drona became a learned Brahmin.

Drona got married to Kripa and had a son named Ashwatthama. Upon his birth, Ashwatthama emitted a horse-like neigh, prompting the suggestion of his name.

They were poor Brahmins and barely managing their livelihood. While Ashwatthama was playing with his friends, they gave him water mixed with flour and told him it was milk. Ashwatthama believed blindly and told his parents that he drank milk. Kripa, deeply hurt, complained to Drona about this.



Drona felt ashamed and decided to visit Lord Parshuram. He did the same. Parashuram was giving away everything he won in the wars. Drona asked for wealth, but Lord Parashuram told him that he had nothing then. But he encouraged Drona to request either an Astra or his physical body. Drona was surprised, but he asked for all the astras Lord Parashuram had. Now he felt blessed. He returned home happily and decided to visit his best friend Drupad. When he visited Drupad, at first Drupad didn't recognize him but offered a cow, as Drona was a Brahmin. Because of this act of insult, Drona was enraged and decided to take revenge. Pandawa and Kaurava were engaged in a game. Gilli, a small piece of wood, dropped into the well. No one was able to help the children retrieve it from the well. But Drona, with the help of a bow and arrow, successfully did the task. When Bhishma learned it from the children, he appointed Drona as a teacher. He became Rajguru of the children.

When he was teaching archery to every child, he asked who was going to give him gurudakshina. Arjuna was happily accepted to give anything. He became his favorite pupil. Once Drona was swimming in the river, and one crocodile attacked him. Arjuna saved him from the crocodile.

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Drona paid back his debt by giving Arjuna Bramhasstra. Now there was a time of guru dakshina.

Drona ordered his pupils to capture Drupad alive and to bring him chained in front of Drona.

Kaurava attacked Panchal, a country of Drupad, but failed to do so. But Arjuna and other

Pandavas successfully achieved the goal. At last Drupad was in chains in front of his poor friend. Drona told him that his whole empire is Drona's property, but as he is Drona's old friend, he gives away half of his empire to Drupad.

But Drupad felt humiliated. He was also greatly impressed by Arjuna, so he performed a yagya to please Lord Mahadeva. He asked for a son who could slay Drona. He desired a daughter who



would wed Arjuna. Yagya Dewata was obligated to give him the boons. Draupadi and

Dristdhumna were now Drupad's offspring, given by yagya dewata. Shikhandi, the incarnation of

Princess Amba, was another son. Draupadi was married to Arjuna. In the war of Mahabharata,

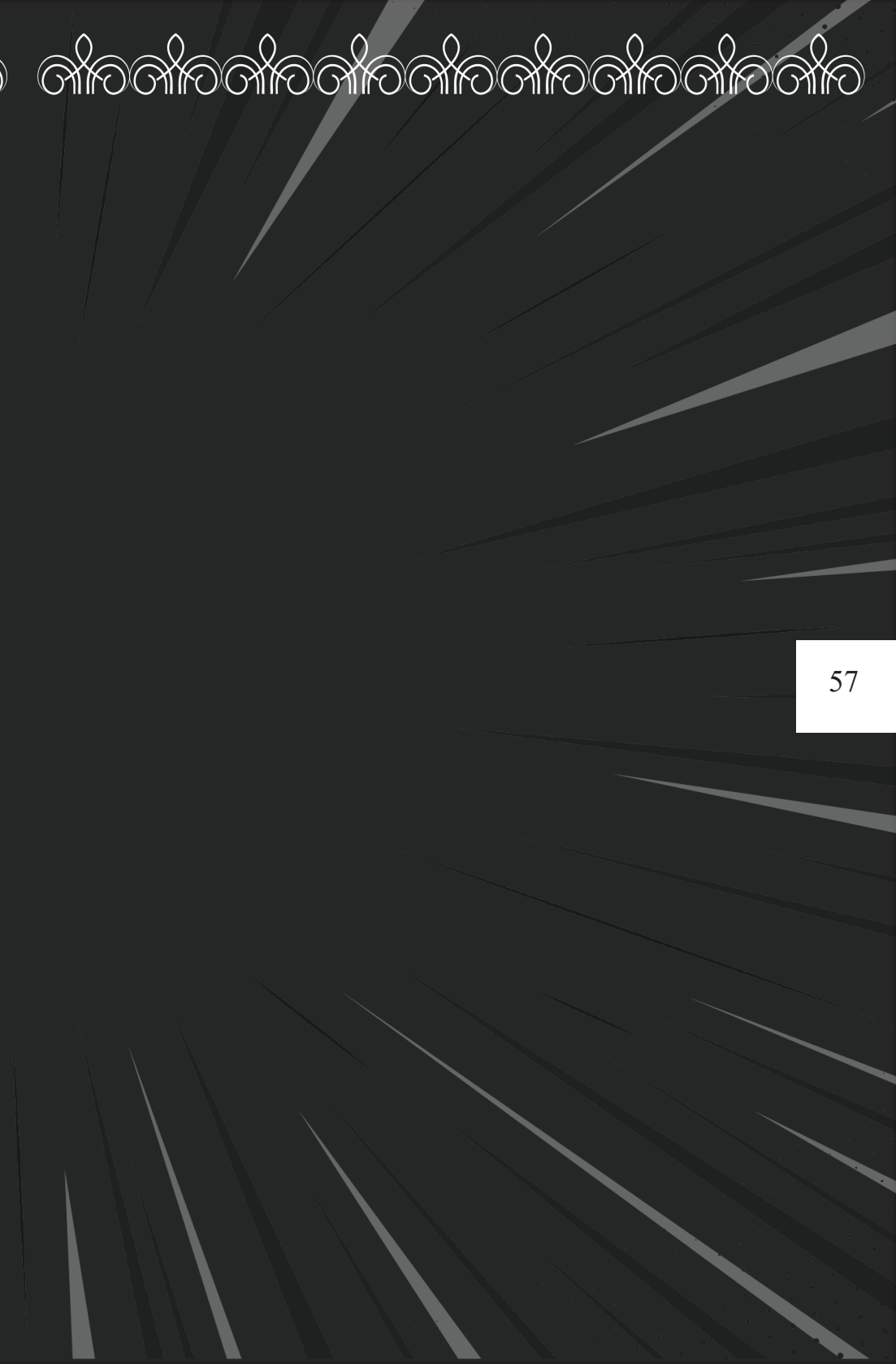
Shikhandi took her revenge to defeat Bhishma and became the reason for his death. Drona killed King Drupad, and Dristdhumna killed Drona. But the vicious cycle of revenge didn't come to an end. Ashwatthama attacked the Pandawa army in the night and killed all five sons of Draupadi.

Ashwatthama killed Dhristdhumna and Shikhandi mercilessly.

After the massacre, Ashwatthama summoned Brahmastra to kill the Pandavas, and Arjuna did the same. Lord Vyas intervened and asked both to call back the Astra. But Ashwatthama couldn't do so, so he diverted that Astra to Uttara's womb.

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But Krishna saved the child with his cosmic power. Now everyone was ashamed by Ashwatthama's act, so Draupadi punished him by taking his celestial mani. Krishna's curse condemned Ashwatthama to wander the earth for a very long time, suffering from his wounds and isolation, without the solace of death.



Chapter – 29

“Bhima uncle told me that Shakuni was one of the culprits.”

“Who this Shakuni was, I want to know, Mahamata.”

“There is a state in the northwest direction of the kingdom. Gandhar. Shakuni was a prince of Gandhar, and Mata Gandhari is a princess of Gandhar.”

“Our mata Gandhari?”

“Yes, she is from Gandhar.”

Do you know she performed rigorous penance in her childhood and succeeded in appeasing Lord Shiva?

Lord Shiva blessed her with a boon of a hundred sons.

But when she was a maiden, Kuru Sena attacked Gandhar. Under the able command of Pitamah Bhishma, Hastinapur invaded Gandhar and asked for Gandhari as a daughter-in-law of the Kuru clan.

But the problem was the blindness. Blindness of Prince Dhritarashtra. Bhishma succeeded in bringing Gandhari by force. But Prince Shakuni was hurt. Gandhari was his loved sister; he took an oath that as Bhishma ruined his sister’s life, he would destroy the whole clan of Kuru.

He told his father, ‘A brother in a sister’s house is a dog.’ He would continue to live like a dog, but he was determined to take his own revenge. He accompanied Gandhari and lived in Hastinapur his whole life.

As time passed, Gandhari gave birth to a hundred sons and a daughter. Duryodhana was the eldest one. Shakuni became his guardian and spoiled his life. He always misguided him; they, together with the help of Dushasan, created many traps.



They tried to kill Bhima in his childhood.

With the help of Purochan, they built Lakshagruh.

The plan was to burn us alive, but somehow we were able to save our lives.

The dice used in the dyut were also treacherous. Some say the dice was made up of Shakuni's father's bone; some say it was made up of Jarasandha's bones. God knows.

He channeled Duryodhana's entire energy in a negative direction. He died at the hands of Sahadeva in the war.

His sons were also killed in the war. But one lesson all of Bharatvarsh learned is, 'Don't be unjust to the weak; the weak can take revenge also.

Even if you are as powerful as an elephant, do not attempt to crush a snake, as it possesses its own means of defense and can seek revenge.



Chapter – 30

“Krishna, Uncle, would you give me Sudarshan Chakra?”

“Yes, dear, why not? But for what?”

“I want to kill all bad people like Ashwatthama, Shakuni, and Duryodhana.”

“Okay, take it when you are the best warrior of the Bharatvarsh.”
But one thing I want to ask is why didn’t you kill all opponents with this disc?”

“Because you should not use powers until and unless it is absolutely necessary.”

I kill a person with this disc who deserves to be killed.”

“Like?”

“Like Shishupal”

“Who is this Shishupal?”

“Do you want to know about him?”

“Yes, I do.”

“Okay, once upon a time Sanatkumar visited Vaikuntha, and my dwarfpal—doorkeepers—tried to stop them.”

They stayed calm and requested them to let them in.

But Jay-Vijay, my dwarfpals, were adamant. So Sanatkumar cursed them to be born as mortals for many yugas. When I realized that Jay-Vijay were not too guilty, I intervened and requested Sanatkumar to reduce the power of the curse. Sanatkumar gave them two options: seven births as Vishnu devotees or three births as Vishnu enemies.

They chose later.

They were born as two brothers.



In their first incarnation they became Hiranyakashipu and Hiranyaksha.

In the second incarnation, they were born as Ravan and Kumbhakarna, and in the third

incarnation, they became Shishupal and Vakradant. Hiranyakashipu and Hiranyaksh ruled the three worlds—Bhulok, Swarg, and Patal.

Hiranyakashipu's son, Prahlad, was my favorite devotee.

Although Prahlad was the son of Hiranyakashipu, he loved me. It is not common for asuras to become my devotees.

But Prahlad, well guided by Narad Muni, became my ardent devotee.

Hiranyakashipu had tried to kill him many times before his death. I protected him as my son. I ultimately brought Hiranyakashipu to his demise. I incarnated as Nrisinh to kill him. To kill Hiranyaksh, I incarnated as Varah.

In the next era I incarnated as Ram to kill Ravan.

Ravan became a huge Shiva devotee. He was a very wise and learned person. He was a warrior equal to five maharathi. He was the richest person on the earth. He won all three Loka.

But as he was cursed, he abducted Laxmi in the form of Sita and was killed by the hand of Rama.

Rama killed Kumbhakarna as he tried to protect evil.

In his next birth, Ravan was reborn as Shishupal and harbored a strong hatred towards me. He loved Laxmi in the form of Rukmini. He was blessed by me that I would forgive him a hundred times. At last I killed him with Sudarshan chakra. I killed Vakradanta too. The story of Jay-Vijay ends here. They returned to Vaikuntha after that.

Chapter – 31

“Krishna, Uncle, why do you love Arjuna the most?”

“Who told you? I love everyone. I loved Karna too.”

“Draupadi Mata told me that you love Arjuna very much; that’s why you preached him the Gita.” “Look, Vrushu, I love everyone, but Arjuna is the nara. He is the most virtuous person in the world.

He doesn’t commit sin even in a dream. He is not only my dearest but also was a favorite of Bhishma and Drona.

Ashwatthama asked the same question to Drona; he answered very accurately, ‘Arjuna learned from Drona, but he didn’t stop there; he earned Astra from Shiva and from many deities like Indra.

If you ask me, I would say he is the innocent one.

He is even more pious than Yudhisthira.

Long ago Urvashi proposed to him, but he accepted a curse rather than accepting her proposal.

Only because she was his ancestor’s wife. She was a wife of King Pururawa.

Even he rejected Uttara as a wife because she was his pupil. Arjuna is like this. He combatted everyone in the Virat war, but he respected Bhishma.

He didn’t want to fight the war, not because he didn’t want to kill, but because he didn’t see a point of intention. When I told him his Dharma is my Dharma, he killed Bhishma, the dearest one. He loved everyone who deserved to be loved. He was the best among promise keepers. If he takes an oath, even Shiva can’t move him from his word.



He was invincible because I was his charioteer and Lord Hanuman was his protector. Yes, true.

However, he won the battle against NivatKavach by himself. Nivatkavach was invincible for Lord

Indra. He fought with Lord Shiva and proved himself a true warrior. Shiva gave him the

Pashupatastra because he was deserving. He did every sin in his life only because I told him to do so.

So it's my sin.

Because he is surrendered to me. Completely surrendered.

Chapter – 32

“Vrushu, come here. I am going to grant one of your wishes today.

“What’s that?”

“Look! Who has come to meet you?”

“Are you Lord Balrama?” ” Oh! God.”

“I am the blessed one.”

“A billion salutations, lord.”

Vrishketu touched the feet of Balrama.

“Vrushu, Krishna told me that Aaryavart got its new Maharathi. Let me see your prowess.” “Let me see what Arjuna taught you.”

“Sure, Lord.”

Vrushketu went to the podium and bowed before his bow. He lifted the bow and took one sharp arrow, chanted over it, and directed it towards the sky.

Two garlands came down and worshipped Krishna and Balrama. The next arrow put the whole stadium on fire. Suddenly one enchanted arrow penetrated the sky, and raining started.

“Wow! Everyone clapped.”

He summoned a cobra, and it bound one of the soldiers. In the next moment an eagle came to rescue the soldier. In an instant, Vrishketu was riding a horse; he swiftly transitioned to another horse, and now he was riding two horses simultaneously. He did the same with three horses. He was riding a chariot. He was riding so fast that it looked like a disc revolving around the center.

He bent horses; horses jumped at the same time.

Now Vrishketu took a spear and challenged six warriors who



were excellent in spear combat.

Within a few moments he managed to disarm them.”

“Vrushu, it’s not a fair game.”

“Now I challenge you for a duel only to test you.” Balrama challenged Vrishketu.

“Okay, Lord.”

The duel started with a spear; it took nearly a prahar to disarm Balram. Next was the mace war, in which Balrama excelled; after a prolonged fight, the duel ended without a clear winner. Balrama then picked up the sword, and the fight resumed. Vrushu was fighting fiercely. He knocked out Balrama. He knocked down Balrama in wrestling, too.

“Now, Vrishketu, you face the last test.”

“There is a drum fastened to the horse. Horses will be roaming around the stadium in random directions.

You have to aim at the golden drum while being blindfolded.

Are you ready?”

“Yes, Lord.”

The horse was ridden by a skilled rider.

Vrishketu cracked the drum within moments.

Balrama signaled for Krishna. “You are right, my brother; he is a maharathi, indeed.” I, Balrama, announce that Vrishketu is a maharathi.

And he will be the last one to know all the astras.

After him, Krishna will destroy all knowledge of astras, as Kali-yug beckons.

Chapter – 33

“Bhagwan Krishna is coming to the ashram!” Someone roared.

“Vrushketu was practicing archery.”

Krishna came and looked at the wooden crow. He was thrilled and astonished. “Vrushu, you have finally become an archer, but are you capable of turning this wheel to dust? Allow me to see.” With that, Krishna released the wheel and tossed it towards Vrushketu. Let me see. Krishna left the wheel and threw it towards Vrushketu. Vrushketu broke the wheel while it was in the air, unleashing arrow after arrow until he turned it into dust.

“Wow! You are better than Arjuna, indeed.”

“But dear, what about Astra? Have you learned any Astra?” “Yes, Uncle Aurjuna taught me every Astra.

And I am doing mantraanusthan for Vashnavastra.”

“Great! Dear, you will be successful in that endeavor also.”

“Dear, do you know Yudhisthira is going to perform Ashwamedha?” I think this is the time to prove yourself. If you think you are prepared, you should engrave your name on the rock of the time.”

“Yes, Uncle.”

After the Ashwamedha of Lord Shriram, it would be the biggest one. It’s time to unleash your potential and become a reputed warrior of the Bharatvarsh.

Become a protector of Prince Parikshit.

Take part in this yagya.” “As you wish, Uncle.” Vrushketu was thrilled.

Krishna went to the palace.



There was a gathering, and Yudhisthira announced his wish to perform Ashwamedha; everyone was pleased. But now the question is of Shamkarn ashwa, a horse having black ears. Only Youvanashwa had it, and it was a difficult task to win Youvanashwa; he had a seven-akshohoni army.

And he was an excellent warrior.

Vrishketu intervened politely.

“Dear uncle, I think I am done with my yudhabhyas.

Now it’s our era, and with due respect, I beg for your permission to take part in yagya and lead the army.”

Meghwarn, a son of Ghatatkocha, begged the same.

Everyone was proud of them.

Bhima came and embraced both. “I am really proud of you, my sons.” Yudhisthira also agreed.

Chapter – 31

“Salutations, Pujari Baba.”

“Who?”

“Vrishketu.”

“Come, dear.”

“Pujari baba, Samrat is going to perform Ashwamedha. I want to know about this yagya.

Why and how do they perform?”

“Dear, there are four yagyas basically made for kings. They are performed to achieve glory and sovereignty.”

They are Vaajapeya, Sautrtaamani, Raajasuya, Ashvamedha.

The Vaajapeya is for personal growth; the Sautrtaamani is for the region’s economic welfare; the Raajasuya is for agreed-upon emperors; and the Ashvamedha is for the kingdom’s expansion and growth in the economy and global welfare.

The Vajapeya Yajna is a first king yagya primarily associated with the attainment of strength and prosperity. It is considered a Soma sacrifice and is performed over 17 days, involving various rites and offerings. The ritual is believed to bestow upon the performer the status of “Vajapeyee” and is seen to maintain harmony within the state.

The title “Vajapeyee” or “Vajapeya” is bestowed upon the king, recognizing their attainment of a higher status and authority.

Sautrāmaṇī is a yagya primarily known for its use of wine (sura) as an oblation and is associated with purification, prosperity, and healing. It counters the negative effects of excessive Soma con-



sumption or serves as an expiatory rite.

The Rajasuya Yagya was a yagya performed by ancient kings to establish their imperial sovereignty. It signified a king's ambition to become a "Chakravarti," or universal monarch, and involved various ceremonial practices, including military conquests and symbolic gestures of power. Rajasuya Yagya was performed by King Yudhishtira long ago.

Ashvamedha is all above, as it's the most superior yagya. A king must have a wife for the Yajna to be performed, and unmarried individuals are not permitted to conduct any Yagya. It is a year-long Yagya! One year! Throughout this entire year, the Yajamana and his wife must remain in Mauna, while a group of 500 Ritviks gathers to perform the Yagya.

The horse chosen for the Ashvamedha is also very specific. It must have 34 ribs, be completely white, with a sturdy build and perfect health, and its left ear should be black. It should be of a noble ancestry, of noble training, and of near-divine endurance and speed. Such a perfect horse is meticulously selected to be the Ashvamedha.

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The horse is released after rituals and with permission from the queen.

A team of 100 warriors accompanies the horse on its journey across the land and protects it from harm. Every kingdom that it passes through, the king there has two choices: honor the party and validate the emperorship of the Yajamana, or oppose it and fight. Most of the time, it was the former rather than the latter. All of the kings would be cordially invited to the Ashvamedha, and they would be duly honored. All the kingdoms were treated equally.

As the horse set out on its journey, the year-long Yajna would begin at the Veda. The horse returns after one year and gets sacrificed. That's all, dear.

Chapter – 35

Dear Draupadi Mata,

We attacked King Yovanashwa today. Uncle Bhima, Meghvarn, and I were at the riverside.

Shamkarn's horse arrived, accompanied by the entire army battalion. We stayed calm and were waiting for a right moment. The horse drew closer to us. Meghvarn captured the horse and ran away. Here I stopped the whole battalion. Yovanashwa, a king of Bhadravati, was enraged and started a counterattack. Meghvarn went far away with the horse. As the enemy understood the situation, they divided themselves into two parts and attacked both of us. A messenger was sent for help from the palace.

When attacked by Yovanashwa, he started laughing and taunted me that I am a mere child. But as I attacked back, he was astonished and praised me. I summoned Agnyastra and put the army on fire, but he nullified the Astra with Varun Astra. Then I summoned Nagastra; he countered it by unleashing Garudastras. Uncle Bhima fought fiercely and killed many soldiers in the opposing army. In his rage, he began using the mace to kill elephants. Suvega, son of Yovanashwa, tried to stop Uncle Bhima but in vain. He was just unstoppable.

I summoned many astras, but every astra was nullified. Meghvarn was running away from the battleground, as he had only one task: to protect.

the horse. I wanted to end the war, so I released Vaishnavastra. It did its task perfectly; the king went into a meditative state when he came to his senses.

He bowed before me and accepted defeat. He agreed to cooperate



in yagya. And became ready to participate in a war with a seven-akshohoni army.

Bhima uncle told me that it was the first victory from our side and now the campaign had begun. Uncle Bhima praised me a lot; he remembered my father, Karna, and praised him also.



Chapter – 36

Dear Vrushu,

I am very happy for you. And hearty congratulations on your first victory in the campaign. I am pretty sure that you will protect it wherever it goes. Maybe it goes to heaven or Naglok. Dear, Uncle Yudhisthira was very nervous and disheartened as the Mahabharata war brought havoc to Bharatvarsh. Many soldiers died in the war. It's said that there is no house in the whole country that did not lose a child. But when Narad Muni counselled him and told him to perform

Ashwamedha Yagya, he felt somewhat motivated, but as the whole generation was lost and the nation had no money, he became more confused. He asked for Krishna's help, and Krishna manifested before him. Krishna told him that Rama is well remembered because of this yagya, and now it's his duty to perform the same to bring glory to the Soma clan. Rituals of

Ashwamedha are the most difficult, and a king should be a pious one. He has to observe celibacy and other virtues in the period of a campaign. Then the assembly gathered, and you know what happened afterwards. Dear, I lost my father, my brothers, and my sons in the war. You are my beloved son and now sixteen years old, so I want to share my story with you. I am the queen, but only a few know about my unfortunate life. All my life I was taunted because I have five husbands. Many people used to call me a "cow" or, more literally, a "prostitute." Krishna is my best friend, my brother; he knows me well. However, I have endured numerous insults throughout my life. Jaydratha tried to abduct me. Kichak, a senapati of Virat, tried to molest me. He was the one who was killed by Bhima when we were in exile.



Duryodhana showed his thigh and called me a slave. Yes, my husband has taken revenge on each and every one, but a woman's life is not easy. Now can you feel my pain? You always asked why I look at you and lose my senses because I always see my son in you. I always forget my past, my suffering, when I am with you. Dear, be victorious because only power counts. Don't forget who your father was; he was the backbone of Hastinapur. Don't forget your uncles, as they are upholders of Dharma.

Chapter - 37

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While we were discussing the yagya, a messenger arrived and informed us about the abduction of the horse and Mata Padmavati. We were clueless why one would want to abduct Mata. Uncle Bhima, Prince Pradumn, Lord Krishna, and I decided to combat him. He was a king, Anushalv, brother of a king, Shalva. He wanted to avenge Lord Krishna. Torture to Pandawa is torture to Krishna, so he abducted both Shamkarn and Mata. We attacked him with great force. Lord Krishna was leading an army. Anushalva came to the battlefield and reminded Krishna about his brother. He argued that Krishna killed his brother Shalv without any fault of his. He was killed when Mata Rukmini was eloping with Lord Krishna. He was a friend of Rukmi and Shishupal. The battle started, and Anushalv and his army were fighting furiously. We fought back. He managed to counter Uncle Bhima. I began fighting because Lord Krishna allowed me to do so. We counter each other's arrows. Really, he was a skilled archer. He summoned many Astra, and so did I. The battle was ended without any results. The next day the fight resumed; this time a fierce battle was fought. We fought with mace after I had disarmed him. He fought with great might, but I was also a disciple of Arjuna, and I made him helpless. Then he took a sword and engaged in a furious battle with me, which I also won. I defeated him in the battle, leading to his arrest.

Lord Krishna told me that capturing Anushalva was one of my best war achievements.

Then we fought with Sudhanva, a son of Hansdwaja. Sudhanva was a great devotee of Lord

Krishna, who, in fact, was ready to die to have a glimpse of Lord



Krishna. Sudhanva, knowing Lord Krishna will be with Arjuna as his charioteer, summons Arjuna for war even though he knows he won't win against him, just to see Lord Krishna. When Arjuna arrived to fight, Sudhanva was so happy to see Lord Krishna that his devotion caused Arjuna to struggle in the battle; when Krishna instructed Arjuna to fire an arrow while his energy would be at its tip, Arjuna followed the command. Sudhanva, by knowing this, gives up his life fighting, and since it was Krishna's energy, he finds nirvana finally.

I would say Lord Krishna must have thought hard before giving moksha to Sudhanva. His devotion to Krishna matched that of Arjuna. But he helped both of them by giving victory to one and moksha to the other.

Chapter – 38

“Wake up, Vrushu, wake up, dear.”

“Where is my bow? I will kill you.”

“I am here, dear. At your service.”

“Babruvahan was in tears.”

“Give me that mani.”

Krishna took the mani and revived Arjuna.

“Vrushu, take a rest, dear.”

Vrushketu was taken to the special room of the palace.

The next morning Krishna went to meet Vrushu. “I lost the battle, lord.” Vrushu was in grief.

Krishna counselled him, “Look, Vrushu, it’s a game of destiny, and you don’t know the game had started long before. We enlisted Shikhandi’s assistance to vanquish Bhishma. We defeated him with treachery, and his mother Ganga cursed Arjuna to be killed by his own son. “What?”

“Yes, dear.”

Both of you were killed by Arjun’s son Babruvahan.

It’s a long story. Chitravahan, a king of Manipur, has no male heir, so he trained his daughter in every aspect like a son. She is a powerful warrior and an able administrator. She became a powerful ruler. Once she had to fight with Arjuna. They fell in love and got married. Chitravahan put forth a condition that their son would be a king of Manipur and would live with his mother.

Both agreed.

And now listen to another story about Ulupi. Ulupi, a nagkanya, was profoundly impressed by



Arjuna. They got a son after marriage. He was a powerful warrior named Iravan. He was killed by Alambush in the Mahabharata war. Ulupi was a sister of a king who hated Arjuna and didn't want to help us." "Help?"

"Yes, when you were fighting with Babruvahan, he succeeded in killing you with a powerful Astra. He also killed Arjuna and felt proud, but his mothers accused him. And they were going to curse him, but I intervened and told Ulupi to bring a nagmani. We had to fight with her brother, but at last we got it. And that man revived you both.

Chapter – 39

Dear Draupadi Mata,

The sacrificial horse went all over the Bharatvarsh. The horse entered the kingdom of Magadha; the son of Sahadeva was a ruler. Sahadeva's son was Meghasandhi. Meghasandhi came out and challenged uncle Arjuna. After defeating the son of Sahadeva, he consented to submit to King Yudhisthira's wishes.

Uncle Arjuna then entered the kingdom of the Chedis. The son of Shishupala was Sarabha. He also fought with Uncle Arjuna and was defeated. After defeating the King of the Chedis, the sacrificial horse proceeded to the kingdoms of the Kashis, the Angas, the Koshalas, the Kiratas, and the Tanganas. Receiving respect and worship from these kingdoms, Uncle Arjuna changed his course. He entered the kingdom of Gandhara and fought with Shakuni's son, who remembered his father's hatred for the Pandavas. After uncle Arjuna had fought with him and defeated him, he headed for the kingdoms of the Yadus. King Ugrasena greeted uncle Arjuna and offered him every kind of hospitality.

Mata I swear to Mahadeva. I haven't heard or seen valour like this. Uncle Arjuna is able to shoot arrows with both hands. The speed of an arrow resembles the speed of light. He can aim at the target from a very long distance. In the moment he can summon any Astra. Just unbelievable! As a pupil I am very proud, and as a warrior I am greatly inspired. Only Babruvahan could defeat him, and that's because of a curse. Now I understand that to become a warrior, only astras are not important, but the satwa, or piousness, is equally important. When he summons any Astra, the deity of Astra is obligated to bestow the power in the arrow.

Chapter – 10

I have heard that Ashwatthama had many astras, but he lost the power to summon them. The warrior must be on the side of Dharma. I love my uncle. He is also a shabdvedhi; he shoots many arrows without looking at the target. When Lord Krishna is his charioteer, even Lord Shiva can't defeat them. Mata I want to be like him, a man of valor and righteousness. He taught me every Astra and never considered me a relative. He tested me every time, and many a time he ordered me to prepare myself for the possession of Astra. Many a time he refused to bestow the knowledge on me because I was not ready for that. I bounced back and got prepared. He taught me the power of politeness. He used to say the sun gives light to everyone, but the receiver should be deserving. I have learnt the knowledge of every shastra, like mace and sword, from him. Once he told me that I am equal to him but not equal to my father, Karna. He is so down-to-earth and honest. He is very loving and lovable. He has scolded me many times because of my impatience. Meghvarn has told me many times Krishna and Arjuna are Nar-Narayan. They always incarnate to uplift the dharma. They are two bodies and one soul.

They are one. And no one can confront them. They are omniscient and omnipotent.

The sacrificial horse then headed in the direction of Hastinapura. The Ashwamedha campaign ended here.

Hastinapur welcomed the victorious uncle Arjuna, Meghvarn, Madan, and me.

Everyone was singing our glory songs. Arjuna's uncle was so proud of us. And the glory was unimaginable. There were flowers



and rangoli everywhere. People were dancing and celebrating. Meghvarn congratulated and embraced me. He felt so proud, and he was on cloud nine. Dancers, like celestial nymphs, were dancing, and musicians were playing instruments.

Uncle Nakula came and embraced us. Yudhisthira uncle kissed my forehead.

We were welcomed in assembly there; Kunti Mata did aukshan. Brahmins were blessing us while chanting mantras.

Mahamantri stood up and announced our victory over all Bharat-varsh. He called Yudhisthira Uncle Samrat. Ashwamedha bestowed this title on him.

Rajpurohit announced the dates of the yagya. Hastinapur was really colored and decorated that day. Oh! What a proud moment!

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Vrushu, dear, come here.

I have bestowed knowledge of each and every Astra on you. But now it's up to you to get knowledge of Narayanastra and Pashupatastra.

If Lord Balrama told you that you are a maharathi, then obviously you are a maharathi. But remember well, Krishna warned me about Kali Yuga, and he ordered me to tell you that you can't transfer this knowledge of Astra. Now you have to do penance to get the knowledge of these astras. So go to Pujari Baba and start Gayatri Anusthan. You have to recite Gayatri japa 24 lakh times. After that you can get Diksha from your spiritual guru. And have to siddh guru mantra. I have taught you Dhanurvedya. You have to find a guru for spiritual and philosophical abode. Niti is the way to live and rule. Uncle Yudhisthira is the right person to guide you. He had learnt it from Pitamah Bhishma. Krishna is my philosophical guru; you can seek his guidance.

Dear, I haven't been a king, but you are going to be a king. You will rule over Indraprasth and Angadesh. We all decided that. Actually, we were going to announce you, Yuvaraj. But there is a controversy; you had better not think about that. One thing is certain: you are a future king. "But Uncle, I am not ready; I want to learn dual war and pashupatastra before that. I want to learn the Gita. I am going to perform harsh penance.

What if Parikshit were to be a Samrat and I were to be his commander? "Don't argue, dear; it's not my decision at all. If there is a question of penance, you can appoint anyone as a king and go for a penance. We have decided to leave the kingdom. We are



proceeding to swarga.“ We all are going to renounce the worldly pleasure.

“What?” ”No, Uncle, please don’t do that.”

“I have no one in this world except you all.”

“Vrushu, no one is with you all the time and indefinitely.“ You should understand this. Nothing is certain except death.”

“Only one question, Uncle.“

“Yes, Vrushu.“

“Who was the best warrior among you all?”

“Hmm, really? Do you believe in this question?” “Dear, you worship both Vishnu and Shiva.

Who’s the best?”

“That’s not an answer.”

“Dear, there are many things that play a major role in the war. Boons, curses, treachery, intervention.

If you think I am better than Karna, could I have defeated him if he had had kavach kundal? Or could I have defeated Pitamah if there wasn’t Shikhandi?

Karna was cursed. He promised Kunti Mata not to use Nagastra twice. Many people believe Bhishma was unjust to Amba.

Okay, let’s come to the question.

I’m Nara and completely surrendered to Narayana as Nandi is surrendered to Mahadeva, so Nara can’t be defeated if he is protected by Narayana. Now it’s not Narayana’s power, but it’s my power of devotion.

I won the war only because Krishna was on my side. But I chose him, but Duryodhana demanded an army. Karna put down his request. Bhishma followed his dharma, even ignoring Krishna himself. Krishna and I are the same. I am none other than Krishna. Can you defeat the Krishna?" Krishna is capable of committing any sin to uphold Dharma. And he had drunk an ocean of sin done by all of us. He did so without any hesitation.

"Okay, dear?



I don't expect you to be satisfied, but it's the answer."

"Yes."

Be a lion; after all, you are a son of Karna.

Be devoted to Krishna.

It's the only mistake your father had made.

Be happy! Be victorious!!

Karnam Jayatu!