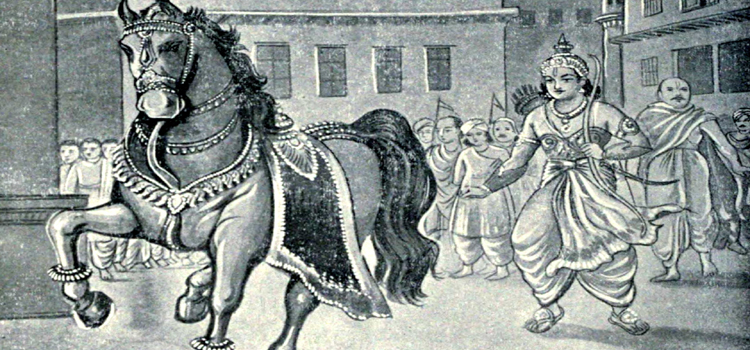


**19AVP211 – AMRITA VALUES PROGRAMME II**

**MAHABHARATA**

**ASHVAMEDHIKA PARVA**



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**19AVP211 – AMRITA VALUES PROGRAMME II**

**MAHABHARATA**

**CONTINNUOUS ASSESSMENT**

**ASHVAMEDHIKA PARVA**

* **The Sacrificial Horse and the Death of Arjuna**

**Character Sketch:**

**Yudhishthira:**

* In the Indian epic Mahabharata, Maharaja Yudhishthira was the son of the King Pandu and Queen Kunti. Yudhishthira is the king of Indraprastha and for the Hastinapura later. He is the leader of the side of Pandava who were won in the Kurukshetra War.

**Krishna:**

* Guide, friend, philosopher are the three words that describes that Krishna plays in this epic. Krishna, an avatar of Vishnu is described as the God of love and compassion is one of the most mysterious character th Mahabharata.Truly, Krishna is the actual manipulator and stategist who guided in the Mahabharata war without fighting directly.

**Introduction:**

Ashvamedhika Parva, book of horse sacrifice from the famous Indian Epic Mahabharata. Ashvamedhika Parva, starts with an instruction from Lord Krishna and Vyasa who recommended Maharaja Yudhishthira to perform the ceremony of the Ashwamedha sacrifice. The Story narrates about how Yudhishthira revived the economy of the worn-out kingdom after the loss in destructive Kurukshetra war.

After grandfather Bhishma passed away, Krishna recommended Yudhisthira to conduct ceremony of three Ashvamedha sacrifices who were well-performed. This sacrifice requires the suboridnation of all the kings on the Earth. To get wealth in the ancient kingdom of Marutta.Maharaja Yudhishthira did mining in the hills of himalayas for wealth and treasures. From this he compiled wealth and distibuted all this wealth for the public through the sacrifice of Ashvamedha, a sacrifice of grand scale will create income as well as jobs.

**Sacrificial Ceremony:**

Maharaja Yudhisthira sacrificed the horse and ordered general Arjuna to follow the Ashamedha wherever it went and also said that to fight with any kind of hostile and aggressive rulers, who didn’t accept the King's sovereignty. The sacrificial horse was disengaged from the city of Hastinapura and allowed to ramble wherever it wished. If the horse entered the kingdom and was taken captive, the warrior following the horse fought with the attackers. He also warned Arjuna not to kill any relatives of those who fought in the war of Kurukshetra. In the middle of the journey to collect tribute from the kingdoms, Arjuna after long time he met his sister Duhsala along with his son Vabruvanaha in the kingdom of Sindhu who were ruling at Manipura.

**Journey of Arjuna as a protector of the horse:**

From here, as Yudhisthira instructed to follow the sacrified horse he then followed where it has been roamed from one place to another. Now, the sacrifieed horse entered the Trigartas, they challenged and decided to fight the mighty armed lord Arjuna.The hatred that was carried by the forefathers had carried for the pandavas too. The Trigartas struggled to capture the horse, but general Arjuna ruled out them to do that. Ignoring the Arjuna’s orders, of Trigartas attacked the Aruna with their full powers. Suryavarman, the king of Trigartas assaulted Arjuna with a stack of arrows, but Partha countered with his arrows and defeated the son of Suryavarman with their weapons. The fuming Suryavarman attacked Arjuna with ease.

Ketuvarnam was the younger brother Suryavarnam is assisting him, made a mistake of assaulting general Arjuna. Finally, Ketuvarnam was killed by Arjuna. After the fall of ketuvarnam, Dhritavarnam, attacked Arjuna with a bunch full of arrows. Arjuna shocked to this young prince and pleased with him. Arjuna exhilatered his enemy and admired hi skill and heroism. Perceiving Arjuna in a fit fo rage and sending arrows like Yama, the Trigarta army broke and vanished in all directions. They waived to Arjuna’s pleading then said “We yield to your rulership! We have now become your slaves”. Arjuna ordered to accept to the rules of Yudhisthira. For this the Trigartas agreed and once again the horse started to move again.

The horse then headed to the kingdom of Pragjyotishapura. Knowing this Vajradatta, son of Bhagadatta hailed to fight with Arjuna. He stopped the horse and entered to his own city to fight. He climbed to his foremost part of the elephant and got ready to fight with Arjuna. By his childish behaviour, he challenged Arjuna to fight. Then they indicated that the elephant was mad and uncontrolled. Arjuna got down from his chariot and stood prepared to meet the assault of Vajradatta. Vajradatta released a infinity number of arrows and unfortunately fell from the chariot. After regaining his conscious, Vjradatta once again started fighting with Arjuna, with his weapons. Arjuna probed the elephant on which the prince Vajradatta was riding and was wounded and blood was started flowing.

The short battle between the general Arjuna and the Vajradatta prosecuted for three days. On day 4, the son of Bhagadatta laughed loudly and said that “Wait! Wait, O Arjuna! You shall not escape with your life”. He also said that by killing you, I shall give tribute to my deceased father. And said that to fight with him. Vajradatta then prompted his elephant, whose every step cause the earth to shack. Beholding this Arjuna with full force lite a flame of fire. The arrow got hit by the elephant and fell on the ground. Dhananjaya then addressed the Vajradatta not ot fear for life. He said that “Oh King Rise up! Return back to your city safely. For the next full moon day, you should arrive Hastinapura to see live the sacrifice of Ashvamedha of Maharaja Yudhisthira. After then Vajradatta agreed with the proposal and went back to his city.

**Entering in Manipur:**

The sacrificial horse then entered into Manipur. Babhruvahana, the ruler of Manipur was the son of Arjuna. Knowing that his father had come to his country Manipur, Babhruvahana with a bunch of his brahmanas came out of his throne with all modesty. But for this Arjuna was not pleased. The mighty Arjuna then chastened his son, He said that “Your conduct is not befitting a king. You have came down to the duties of a kshatriya”. He also said that he came as the protector of the horse as ordered by the Yudhisthira.He said that Shame on you for not fighting with him. He also added that “he was felt ashamed on behaving like a woman”.

From hearing the critizing words from Arjuna, Ulipi, one of the wives of Arjuna and a step mother for Babhruvahana riddled the earth and encouraged him. She said Babhruvahana to follow her instructions so that he will attain for lasting fame. So that he will be appeased. Now, Babhruvahana mounted his chariot with different types of weapons and proceeded against his father. He indicated that he was up to take fight, by causing the horse. Finally, Arjuna praised his son. Arjuna then released arrows, but were cut by his son, Babhruvahana. Then, Arjuna cut the royal standard of the Manipur king and killed his horses. The king was in anger and got down from his chariot, and fought with his father on foot. Then an arrow entered deeper into the chest of Arjuna and fell down the ground. By seeing this Babhruvahana also fell to the ground causing unconsiousness. Chitrangada, mother of Babhruvahana regreted the death of Arjuna.And told to Udipi that this is because of you and asked that “I you any power bring him back” in lot of sorrow in grief.

After sometime Babhruvahana gained his conscious, and he was in pain after seeing the dead body of father and his crying mother, He said that he will his body by fasting till death if my father does not come back with his life to Udipi. There is no action for killing one’s own father. But surely, I will reside in hell.

Babhruvahana, the king of Manipur sat down the ground and started doing meditation. Ulipi informed Babhruvahana not to take unnecessary solemn promises. She said that she will revive Arjuna. She had a jewel which is capable of bringing back to life anyone. The great general Arjuna cannot be bumped off by the combination of demons and gods. She has exhibited the illusion for the benefit of Arjuna. Don’t think that you have killed your father. It was to test your power so that the battle took place. She now revives his husband with the precious jewel.

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| Ulupi arrived near the Arjuna and touched the precious jewel to his chest. In the  process, Arjuna woke up from the sleep. Knowing the return of his father, | |
| Babhruvahana aprroached near his father  and worshipped with many prayers.  Indra, the king of heaven, blessed with  the showering of flowers on the earth and  caused denizens to sound their  instruments. In the heavens, the sounds  were heard: “Well done! Well done!  Arjuna then cuddled Babhruvahana and  smelled his head. Arjuna asked | ARJUNA's CHARIOT( MAHABHARATA), horse carriage silhouette poster HD wallpaper |
| Babhruvahana why there are joy, wonder, and sorrow simultaneously in all  dorections? Can you say the trick to me and also said that he is desired to know  what brought these ladies to the field?  Babhruvahana replied that, regarding this you should ask Ulupi. Arjuna thus asked  his wife Ulipi, “Why you came here?”. Neither Babhruvahana nor I have insisted  you in any way. | |

Then Ulipi replied that, You haven’t outraged me nor has your son in any way.

Don’t get angry and please listen my words politly for the cause the way I did. In the battle of Bharata princess, you had slain Bhishma, the son of Shantanu unfairly. When was smitten he was not in the battle? He stayed back with his weapons because of the presence of Shikhandin. Ulipi said that if I am not here you would be seen the hell for sure. After the death of Bhishma, the Vasus cane near the banks of Ganges and called for the goddess by various prayers. And said that to free from the curse in battle his son should slay him. With her permission, they damned you to die.

Hearing the situation from Ulipi, Arjuna felt happy and said, “I find all this most pleasing”. Then Arjuna ordered his son, that the sacrificial ceremony oh horse will take place in Chaitra month on the day of full moon. And also invited to participate in this ceremony along with your mother and your counsellors. The King agrred the wish of his father. Finally, Babhruvahana got worshiped by his father, Arjuna and Arjuna started leaving the city and followed the horse.

**Leading the way towards Magadha kingdom:**

The sacrificial horse started roaming all over the earth. Now it entered into the Maghadha kingdom ruling by Jarasandha. Sahadeva was the son of Jarasandha. Sahadeva put a hand in the Kurushektra war for the side of pandavas and was killed in it. Meghasandhi. As per rules of Kshatriya, Meghasandhi came ouy and challenged Arjuna and got defeated by Arjuna subsequently. He agreed to become sevile to the desires of King Yudhisthira.

**Shishupala Kingdom:**

The horse followed by Arjuna went to the Chedis kingdom ruled by Shishupala. Sarabha is the son of Shishupala. They fought with Arjuna and got defeated. After defeating Chedis the sacrificial horse entered into the kingdom of the Kahis, the Koshalas, the Kiratas and the Tanganas. Arjuna received respect and worship from the above kingdoms and changed his course. He then entered into the kingdom of Gandhara ruled by Shakuni.Arjuna fought with the son of Shakuni remembering father’s hatred for the Pandavas. Shakuni’s son got defeated by Arjuna and started travelling for the kindom of the Yadus ruled by Ugrasena.He greeted and worshiped Arjuna and offered hospitality. The horse then lead the way in the direction of Hastinapura.

**Leading the way to Hastinapura:**

Arjuna entered the alluring city of Hastinapura and the citizens welocmed him royally. Yudhisthira felt happy for the return of his brother and listened how he single-handedly subjected the whole world. All the kings from various edges of the Earh reached Hastinapura and were heartfully welcomed by Yudhisthira. Lord Krishna, escorted by Balarama, the elder brother of Krishna, reached to the horse sacrifice of Yudhisthira. By the indulgence of Krishna, the sacrifice was finished and all were happy with that. The brahmanas were gifted with the variety of valuable articles in charity and the lower classes were given plentiful food and clothing. Thus Maharaja Yudhisthira successfully performed three Ashvamedha horse sacrifices, and the Earth's kings were gratified by his humility.

Thus ends the **Ashvamedhika Parva**.

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