

the *Strayambara* of Draupadi' he succeeded in hitting the golden fish and won Draupadi who became the wife of the five brothers. ~~He served Virata in the disguise of a eunuch.~~ There was a rule among the brothers that if any one of them entered the house of another brother while Draupadi was dwelling there he should go into exile for twelve years. Arjuna happened to break this rule and had to go into exile in consequence. While thus wandering abroad he married Ulu'pi', Chitrángadá and Subhadrá. In the course of the exile of the Pándavas Arjuna secured the Pás'upata missile from S'iva with whom, disguised as a *Kira'ta*, he had a severe fight. He was the bravest of the Pándavas and the central figure of attraction in the great war with the Kauravas. He killed two of the greatest warriors on the other side - Bhi'shma and Karna. His next adventures were in connection with the horse-sacrifice performed by Yudhishthira. After the massacre at Prabhāsa he with the other Pándavas perished on the Hímālaya mountain, Pari'kshit, his grandson, succeeding to the throne of Hastinā-pura.

**अश्वत्थामन्** The only son of Drona, the military preceptor of the Kauravas and Pándavas, and Kripí', the sister Kripa. He is said to be deathless. In the course of the great war between the Kauravas and the Pándavas, one day an elephant, named As'vattháman, was slain and the Pándavas, by the advice of Krishna, took advantage of this coincidence in name and falsely reported that Drona's son was dead. Yudhishthira was appealed to as

being truthful and had to give an evasive reply. Overcome with sorrow at the early death of his only son, the kind old father was for a time insensible. Meanwhile Dhrishtadyumna, his avowed enemy, severed his head from the body, (Ve. Ixx.). Of all this As'vattháman had no knowledge till the treacherous deed was accomplished. When he heard of it he was overcome with filial tenderness and in a fit of paroxysm upbraided for their pusillanimity all the warriors of his side who witnessed with indifference his father's death. As'vattháman afterwards took his revenge by murdering the five sons of Draupadi', while asleep, and also Dhrishtadyumna and is believed to be still living, being a चिरंजीविन्.

**अश्विनीकुमार** The twin sons of the sun by his wife संज्ञा in the form of a mare. Once it happened that संज्ञा wanted to go to her father's house; but her husband would not allow her to go. Through her magical power she then created a woman, an exact likeness of herself, and substituting her in her place without her husband's knowledge, went to her father. The sun refused to admit her when she returned. Thus repulsed she assumed the form of a mare and wandered over the earth. After some time by some domestic discord the sun came to know all this, assumed the form of a horse and was with his wife, now a mare, who bore to him these twins. The As'vins are famous as heavenly physicians.

**अटानक** The son of Kahodha. He was born crooked in eight places for having interfered with his father's studies. He saved his father from the watery grave to which he was consigned when defeated in a literary controversy.