

thirteenth day of the war, he was, owing to the absence of Arjuna, commanded by Yudhishthira to charge the Kauravas who were drawn up in the form of a spider's web; he drove his chariot into the enemies' ranks and performed prodigies of valour, but was finally overpowered by six warriors and slain, (Vc. 11.). After the great war the line of the Pa'ndavas was preserved through his son Parikshit.

**अंबरीष** Son of king Na'bla'ga, was greatly distinguished for his piety and liberality. He is said to have conquered the whole world in a week.

**अंबा** The eldest daughter of Ka's'ira'ja. She along with her two sisters was won by Bhishma as prize in the contest which took place at the time of her *Swayamvara*. Amba' with her sisters was to be married to Vichitravirya, the step-brother of Bhishma; but she refused to marry him saying that she had already taken in her mind king S'a'lva for her lord. She was allowed to go to S'a'lva; but on suing him she found to her utter disappointment that her suit was rejected by that prince. Thus repulsed she returned to Bhishma and importuned him to espouse her, but he would not do so for fear of violating the vow of life-long continence to which he had strictly sworn before his father. She then returned into a forest for observing penance. There one day she fell in with her grand-father who pitied her condition, and taking her to his friend Paras'urama, requested him to persuade Bhishma to marry her. Paras'urama closed with the proposal and took her to Bhishma but found him untractable. Then followed a trial by combat between the two

warriors, but there was no decision. In her helplessness Amba propitiated S'iva and begged him to furnish her with the means of killing Bhishma. But this was not possible in that very birth, and the god said that she could have her revenge in her second birth which would be that of a daughter of king Drupada named S'ikhandini. Consoled by this promise she quitted the world, was again born as the daughter of Drupada and afterwards became Arjuna's instrument of killing Bhishma. See *शिखंडिन*.

**अम्बिका** } Younger sisters of Amba.  
**अम्बालिका** } They (both of them) were married to Vichitravirya, but he died before either of them had borne any child to him. Witnessing this utter failure of issue in them Satyawati, their mother-in-law, summoned Vyasa, her eldest son, from the forest who, at her request, begot Dhritarashtra and Pandu respectively on Ambika and Ambalika.

**अरुण** The charioteer of the sun and the son of Kas'yapa and Vinata'. Being prematurely delivered he is said to have been born thighless. He is the brother of Garuda and the father of Jata'yu.

**अरुन्धती** Daughter of Kardama and wife of Vasishtha. "One of the Pleiades and generally regarded as the model of wifely excellence." Hence the star of this name, which is close to the middle one in the tail of *Ursa Major*, is pointed out by the bridegroom to his bride, with admonitions to pay obeisance to it, at the marriage ceremony.

**अर्जुन** The third son of Pandu and Kunti', begotten on the latter by Indra. Arjuna was the most favourite pupil of Drona. At