

para, during a period of severe drought which lasted for twelve years, Viśvāmitra and other sages left their hermitages and, homeless, they ran about here and there 12. 139. 13, 26; (*āśramān saṁparityajya paryadhāvann itas tataḥ / viśvāmitro 'tha ... aniketanaḥ / kṣudhāparigato dhīmān samantāt paryadhāvata //*) 12. 139. 25-26.

**Viṣṇoḥ sthānam :** See Śālagrāma.

**Viṣṇor āyatanam nt. :** Name of a holy resort ( temple ? ) of Viṣṇu.

**A. Location :** In a holy forest, not very far from the sea and the *tīrtha* known as Śūrpāraka (*śūrpārakam dadarśa // tatrodadheḥ kaṁcid atītya deśam ... vanam āsaśāda*) 3. 118. 8-9; (*sa tatra ... viṣṇoḥ ... āyatanāni teṣāṁ dadarśa*) 3. 118. 10-11, 13. For **B. Description** and **C. Epic event** see *Bhagasya āyatanam*.

**Viṣṇor āśramaḥ m. :** The *āśrama* of Viṣṇu.

**A. Location :** From Kurukṣetra, Balarāma went to the *āśrama* of Viṣṇu (*kurukṣetraṁ tato dṛṣṭvā ... āśramam (viṣṇoḥ) ... agamat*) 9. 53. 1; by the side of Himavant (*pārśve himavataḥ*) 9. 53. 9. **B. Description :** Holy (*puṇya*) 9. 53. 2, 9, having holy marks (*puṇyalakṣaṇa*) 9. 53. 3; heavenly (*divya*) 9. 53. 1; very large (*sumahant*) 9. 53. 1; excellent (*pravara*), (*āśramavara*) 9. 53. 3; it was full of trees such as Madhūka, mango, Plakṣa, banyān, Ciri, Bilva, Panasa, and Arjuna 9. 53. 2; **C. History :** On enquiry, the sages told Balarāma that the *āśrama* formerly belonged to Viṣṇu; god Viṣṇu, in bygone days, practised excellent austerities in that *āśrama*; all ancient sacrifices were performed according to the rites by Viṣṇu in the *āśrama* (*śṛṇu*

*vistaraśo rāma yasyāyaṁ pūrvam āśramaḥ // atra viṣṇuḥ purā devas taptavāns tapa uttamam / atrāsya vidhivad yajñāḥ sarve vṛttāḥ sanātanāḥ //*) 9. 53. 4-5. **D. Past event :** In this *āśrama* the daughter of Śāṇḍilya who observed chastity obtained perfection by practising austerities; after enjoying in the *āśrama* the fruit of an *aśvamedha* sacrifice, she was absorbed in meditation and went to heaven (*atraiva brāhmaṇī siddhā kaumārabrahmacārīṇī / yogayuktā divaṁ yātā tapaḥsiddhā ... // babhūva ... śāṇḍilyasya ... sūtā // sū tu prāpya param yogaṁ gatā svargam anuttamam / bhuktvāśrame 'śvamedhasya phalaṁ ... / gatā svargam mahābhāgā //*) 9. 53. 6-8. **E. Epic event :** Balarāma paid respects to the sages and from that *āśrama* he mounted the mountain (*āruruhe 'calam*) 9. 53. 9.

**Vīrāśrama m. :** Name of an *āśrama*.

One who visits Kumāra living in the Vīrāśrama gets without doubt the fruit of an *Aśvamedha* sacrifice (*kumāram abhigatvā ca vīrāśramanivāsinam / aśvamedham avāpnoti naro nāsty atra saṁśayaḥ //*) 3. 82. 126.

**Vṛkasthala nt. :** Name of a village.

**A. Location :** On way from Upaplavya to Hāstinapura (*upaplavyād athāyāntam (keśavam)*) 5. 82. 18; (*upaplavyād iha kṣattar upayāto janārdanaḥ / vṛkasthale nivasati sa ca prātar iheṣyati //*) 5. 84. 1. **B. Characterized as grāma :** (*grāmān pañca*) 5. 70. 16; (*pañca grāmā vṛtā mayā*) 5. 70. 14; (*pañca nas tāta dīyantām grāmā itī*) 5. 80. 7; (*tasmin grāme*) 5. 82. 25; (*grāme vṛkasthale*) 5. 83. 16. **C. Epic events :** (1) Vṛkasthala was one of the