

it was as good as seeing the god himself (*dṛṣṭo bhavati deveṣa ebhir dṛṣṭair...*) 12. 323. 47; the people of Śvetadvīpa had the same characteristic as that of the liberated men (*ye vimuktā bhavanti ha ... teṣāṃ lakṣaṇam etad dhi yac chvetadvīpavāsīnām*) 12. 322. 14 (Nī. on 12. 335. 14; *śvetadvīpavāsīnām jīvanmuktānām ca nirindriyatvādikam eva lakṣaṇam*); (at the end of their life) they enter the eternal god of thousand lustres (*te sahasrārcaṣaṃ devaṃ pravṛtanti sanātanaṃ*) 12. 323. 25; (*mām pravekṣyanty asaṃśayam*) 12. 326. 19. D. Epic events: (1) Yudhiṣṭhira asked Bhīṣma how the people of the Śvetadvīpa were born and what was the kind of life they were going to obtain after death (*katham te puruṣā jātāḥ kā teṣāṃ gatir uttamā*) 12. 322. 13; thereupon Bhīṣma replied to his question in details starting with the story of king Uparicara 12. 322. 16 ff.; Bhīṣma also told Yudhiṣṭhira how Nārada went to Śvetadvīpa 12. 324. 39; (2) Janamejaya asked Vaiśampāyana why Nārada returned from the Śvetadvīpa to the Badarī āśrama to see Nara and Nārāyaṇa, how long he stayed there, and what were the questions he asked to those two Ṛṣis 12. 331. 15-18; thereupon Vaiśampāyana replied to his question in details 12. 331. 19 ff. E. Past events: (1) Nārada standing on a peak of mountain Meru saw the Śvetadvīpa in the north-west direction as a wonderful spectacle 12. 322. 7-8; Nārada reached the Śvetadvīpa and saw the people there; he respected them by bowing down and they honoured him mentally (*pūjāyām āsa śirasā manasā taiḥ ca pūjitaḥ*) 12. 325. 1-2; Bhagavān appeared

before Nārada, but told him to leave the island immediately so that no disturbance was caused to the contemplations of the people of the Śvetadvīpa (*gaccha nārada māciram || ... ekāgrāś cintayeyur mām naiṣāṃ vighno bhaved iti*) 12. 326. 17-18; 12. 331. 13; he left Śvetadvīpa and went to mount Meru and from there to Gandhamādāna to reach Badarī 12. 331. 20-22; (also see the two epic events above); Nārada told Nara and Nārāyaṇa that he saw in Śvetadvīpa the people residing there 12. 331. 29-30; Nārāyaṇa asked Nārada if he saw in Śvetadvīpa the Bhagavān who was their (i. e. of Nara and Nārāyaṇa) higher *prakṛti* (*apl ... sa bhagavān ... śvetadvīpe tvayā dṛṣṭa āvayoḥ prakṛtiḥ parā*) 12. 331. 35; Nārada replied that he did and also told them he saw the white people who were devoid of all sense-organs; as directed by Bhagavān he returned from Śvetadvīpa 12. 331. 36, 41, 51; 12. 332. 1; Nara and Nārāyaṇa then told Nārada that they too had seen him (Nārada) meeting the Bhagavān himself in Śvetadvīpa and had heard his conversation with him (*āvābhyām apl dṛṣṭas tvam śvetadvīpe ... | samāgato bhagavatā samjalpaṃ kṛtavān yathā ||*) 12. 332. 22; (2) A noncorporeal voice told Ekata, Dvita and Trita, who were practising severe austerities on mountain Meru to go to Śvetadvīpa where the Bhagavān had manifested himself (*gacchadhvaṃ tatra* (i. e. Śvetadvīpa) *munayas tatrātmā me prakāśitaḥ*) 12. 323. 21-23, 26; they reached the Śvetadvīpa by following the way told to them by the noncorporeal voice; having reached the island, however, their eyes were blinded and they could not see any man (*prāpya śvetam mahādvīpaṃ ... tato*