

22-30; Bhāgīrathī again appeared later in this event when she joined the sages, Nārada and others, who stood between Bhīṣma and Rāma to stop them fighting with each other 5. 186. 27; (3) Her pleading with Ambā : Gaṅgā, the mother of Bhīṣma, rose from the waters and asked Ambā the purpose she wanted to achieve by performing the austerities; when told by Ambā that her effort was aimed at the destruction of Bhīṣma, Gaṅgā (*sāyaraḡā*) told her that her purpose was crooked (*jihmaṁ carasi bhāmini*); if she persisted in observing her vows and if she died during the observance of the vows she would become a crooked river having water only during the rainy season and not in the remaining eight months (*nadī bhaviṣyasi śubhe kutilā vārṣikodakā [...vārṣikī nāṣtamāsikī]*); Bhīṣma's mother then returned from the place where Ambā practised austerities 6. 187. 29-36; (4) Death of Bhīṣma : When Bhīṣma, after his fall on the battle-field, resolved to hold his life till the start of the Uttarāyaṇa, Gaṅgā, knowing his resolve, sent to him the great sages in the form of swans 6. 114. 90; much later, after the cremation of Bhīṣma, Dhṛtarāṣṭra and the rest, including Vyāsa, Nārada, Asita and Kṛṣṇa, went to the bank of the Bhāgīrathī and all the Kṣatriya warriors and citizens offered water offerings to him; then Bhāgīrathī arose from water and, crying, lamented the death of her son; she addressed her words to the Kauravas praising and recounting the good qualities of Bhīṣma 13. 154. 17-26; the grieved Bhāgīrathī was consoled by Dāmodara (Kṛṣṇa) assuring her that her son was brought down from the chariot by Arjuna and not by Śikhaṇḍin and that he had returned to the Vasus in heaven 13. 154. 27-32;

Bhāgīrathī then gave up grief and entered her own waters; Kṛṣṇa and others, after honouring the river (*satkṛtya te tām saritum*) returned from that place (to Hāstinapura) when permitted by her to do so (*anuñātās tayā*) 13. 154. 33-34; when Dhṛtarāṣṭra had offered water offerings to Bhīṣma, Yudhiṣṭhira came out of water with Dhṛtarāṣṭra and, grief-stricken, fell on the bank of the Gaṅgā 14. 1. 1-2; (5) Arjuna punished for his role in the fall of Bhīṣma : Ulūpī told Arjuna that his defeat at the hands of his son Babhruvāhana was an expiation (*niṣkṛtiḥ*) he had to undergo for the *adharma* committed by him in bringing about the fall of Bhīṣma 14. 82. 8; this expiation was prescribed by the Vasus and the Gaṅgā (*eṣā tu vihitā śānīḥ putrād yām prāptavān asi / vasubhir vasudhāpāla gaṅgayā ca mahāmate*) 14. 82. 11; when Bhīṣma died (*hate śāntanave nṛpe*) the Vasus emerged from waters and meeting the great river, told her that they wanted to curse Arjuna for his misdeed in the war, to which Bhāgīrathī agreed (*idam ūcur vaco ghoram bhāgīrathyā mate tudā [...vayam apy arjunam ... śāpena yojayāmeti tathāstv itī cābravit* //) 14. 82. 12-15; (6) The Pāṇḍavas came across the Gaṅgā at various places : (i) When Yudhiṣṭhira and his brothers decided to go on a pilgrimage, the Brāhmaṇas expressed their wish to visit with them the Gaṅgā and other rivers 3. 91. 10; when they arrived at Prayāga at the confluence of the Gaṅgā and the Yamunā the Pāṇḍavas bathed in their waters (*āplutya gātrāṇi*), practised the severest austerities and gave gifts to the Brāhmaṇas 3. 93. 5-6; (ii) They again arrived at the Bhāgīrathī flowing by the side of the Agastyaśrama where Lomaśa advised them to bathe at