

brothers and wife, went to meet Dhṛtarāṣṭra in his āśrama he had to cross the river Yamunā (*tato yudhiṣṭhiro rājā kurukṣetram avātarat /... uttīrya yamunām ... sa dadarśāśramam dūrāt ... dhṛtarāṣṭrasya*) 15. 30. 16-17; 15. 31. 6; it was situated near the āśrama of Śatayūpa 15. 25. 9, 12; 15. 30. 17; also not far from Bhāgīrathī 15. 25. 8; 15. 39. 18, 21; 15. 40. 4. B. Description : Solitary (*śūnya*) 15. 31. 3; resorted to by Siddhas and Cāraṇas (*siddhacāraṇasevita*) 15. 31. 20; in the precincts of the āśrama there were fire altars with burning sacrificial fires attended to by sages who had taken bath and who gave offerings in the fire (*dadarśa tatra vedīś ca samprajvalitapāvākaḥ / kṛtābhiṣekair munibhir āhutaḥniḥbhir upasthitāḥ /*) 15. 34. 7; the fire altars were scattered with forest flowers, were full of smoke issuing from clarified butter, were endowed with Brahmanical lustre, and were surrounded by hosts of sages (*vāneya-puṣpanikarair ājyadhūmodgamair api / brāhmaṇa vapuṣā yuktā yuktā munigaṇaiś ca tāḥ*) 15. 34. 8; the hermitage was full of deer (*mṛgagaṇākīrṇa*) 15. 31. 3; herds of deer moved about undistractedly near the āśrama and singing birds flew over it fearlessly; notes of peacocks, Dātyūhas, sweet sounds of cuckoos and sounds of Vedic recitations of Brāhmaṇas could be heard at different places (*mṛgayūthair anudvignaiś tatra tatra samāśritaiḥ / aśaṅkitaiḥ pakṣigaṇaiḥ pragī-tair iva ca prabho // kekābhir nīlakaṇṭhānām dātyūhānām ca kūjītaiḥ / kokilānām ca kuharaiḥ śubhaiḥ śrutimanoharaiḥ //*) 15. 34. 9-10; beautified by large number of banana trees (*kadalīvanaśobhita*) 15. 31. 3; there were large baskets for collecting fruits and roots (*phalamūlasamudvāhair mahad-*

*bhiś copaśobhitam*) 15. 34. 11. C. Epic events : (1) In Kurukṣetra, Dhṛtarāṣṭra first reached the āśrama of the royal sage Śatayūpa; he lived in this āśrama and after he was initiated by Vyāsa in his own āśrama and was instructed by Śatayūpa in the way of the life of a forest-dweller, Dhṛtarāṣṭra established another āśrama for himself, Gāndhārī and Kuntī for the practice of austerities (*yayau vyāsāśramam tadā /... sa dikṣām tatra samprāpya rājā ... śatayūpāśrame tasmin nivāsam akarot tadā // tasmai sarvaṁ vidhiṁ rājan rājā-cakhyau mahāmatih / āraṇyakam ... evam sa tapasā rājā dhṛtarāṣṭro mahāmanāḥ / yojayām āsa cātmānam*) 15. 25. 11-14; (2) Yudhiṣṭhira, desirous of meeting Dhṛtarāṣṭra and others, ordered his carriages and the rest to move to Kurukṣetraśrama (*niryāntu ... kurukṣetraśramam prati*) 15. 29. 19-21; (3) When Yudhiṣṭhira, with his brothers and Draupadī, reached Kurukṣetra and crossed the river Yamunā he saw from a distance the āśramas of Śatayūpa and Dhṛtarāṣṭra (*sa dadarśāśramam dūrād rājarṣes tasya dhīmataḥ / śatayūpasya kauravya dhṛtarāṣṭrasya caiva ha //*) 15. 30. 16-17; the Pāṇḍavas got down from their chariots and went on foot (*padātayaḥ*) to the āśrama of Dhṛtarāṣṭra (*pāṇḍavāḥ ... abhijagmur narapater āśramam*) 15. 31. 1; *āśramam te tato jagmur dhṛtarāṣṭrasya pāṇḍavāḥ* 15. 31. 3; when Dhṛtarāṣṭra, who had gone to bathe in Yamunā and to fetch flowers, returned to the āśrama along with the Pāṇḍavas who had rushed there to meet him, he sat down in the āśrama with the Pāṇḍavas and the ascetics who had gathered to see the Pāṇḍavas 15. 31. 6-8, 20; 15. 32. 1-2; when the ascetics and