

kṣatriyā vṛttam sataśo 'jātaśatrave) 2. 48. 12, 16.

Vairāma m. (pl.) : Name of a people.

A. Location : They were born in the bay (?) of the (western) ocean, near the river Sindhu (*samudraṇiṣkuṭe jātāḥ pari-sindhu ca mānavāḥ*) 2. 47. 9 (Nī., however, on Bom. Ed. 2. 51. 11 : *samudrasamī-pasthanīṣkuṭe gṛhodyāne*). **B. Characteristics** : They lived on grains which grew of their own accord or which they cultivated using river water (*indrakṣṣṭair vartayanti dhānyair nadīmukhaiś ca ye*) 2. 47. 9 (For Nilakanṭha's comment see *Pārada* p. 783). **C. Epic event** : They brought tribute for Yudhiṣṭhira's Rājasūya many kinds of articles and jewels of various types (*vividham balim ādāya ratnāni vividhāni ca*), but they were stopped at the gate (*te vairāmāḥ .../... dvāri tiṣṭhanti vāritāḥ*) 2. 47. 10-11 (the details of the tribute are given in 2. 47. 11 for which see *Pārada*).

Śāka m. (pl.) : Name of a Janapada and its people.

A. Location : Listed by Samjaya among the northern Janapadas (also called *Deśas* 6. 10. 68) of Bhāratavarṣa (*ata ūrdhvaṁ janapadān nibodha*) 6. 10. 37, 5; (*vakrabhayāḥ śakāḥ*) 6. 10. 43; listed by him again along with Niśādas and Niśadhas (*śakā niśādā niśadhās ...*) 6. 10. 50. **B. Origin** : They were produced, along with Śabarās, by Nandini, Vasiṣṭha's cow, from her dung (*śakṛtaḥ śabarāṇi śakān*) 1. 165. 35; elsewhere it is stated that they were originally Kṣatriyas but were degraded to the status of a *vṛṣala* due to their neglect of Brāhmaṇas (*kṣatriyajātayaḥ / vṛṣalatvaṁ parigatā brāhmaṇānām adarśanāt*) 13. 33.

C. Description and characteristics : Very strong (*atibala*) 8. 5. 18, (*balin*) 8. 51. 19; very frightful (*sughora*), having frightful eyes (*ghoracakṣus*) 7. 68. 41; rough, doers of cruel deeds (*ugra, krūra-karman*) 8. 51. 18; impure (*aśuci*), having shaven, half-shaven heads, or having matted hair on heads and with bearded faces (*muṇḍārdhamuṇḍajāṭilān ... jaṭilānanān*) 7. 68. 44; they knew the *māyās* of demons (*vidanty asuramāyām ye*) 7. 68. 41; excited, fond of wars, firm-listed (*saṁrambhin, yuddhaśauṇḍa, dṛbhdhapāṇi*) 8. 51. 19; quick in action (*laghuhasta*) 7. 95. 32; difficult to be conquered (*durjaya*) 8. 5. 18; difficult to be assailed (*durādharṣa*), fiery, shining like burning fire (*agnikalpa*), (*pradiptair iva pāvakaiḥ*); their valour was like that of Indra (*śakratulyaparākrama*) 7. 87. 50; characterized as *mlecchas* 7. 68. 44; 7. 95. 13; they lived in the caves of mountains (*girigahvaravāsin*) 7. 68. 45; also said to be living on country-side but leading the life of Dasyus (*sarve viśaya-vāsināḥ ... sarve te dasyujīvinaḥ*) 12. 65. 15; **D. Epic events** : (1) Śakas were among several peoples like Cīnas, Hūṇas and others who, although they brought tribute of different kinds for Rājasūya, were stopped at the gate (*abhigatān vividhān dvāri vāritān; balim ca kṛtsnam ādāya dvāri tiṣṭhanti vāritāḥ*) 2. 47. 19-20, 25; the details of their tribute given in 2. 47. 21-25; Śakas are mentioned once again along with Tukhāras and others who brought tribute in the form of an *arbuda* horses who could go long distances and were of noble descent, as well as gold in very large quantities to be counted by crores and totalling a *padma*, but were stopped at the gate