

According to the Parvasaṁgrahaparvan it has 42 chapters (*adhyāyas*) and 1506 stanzas (*ślokas*) as counted by (Vyāsa) who sees the truth (*saṁkhyātās tattvadarśinā*) 1. 2. 218-219; in this *parvan* Dhṛtarāṣṭra, with Gāndhārī and Vidura, left the capital and went to the hermitage; they were followed by Pṛthā (Kuntī); in this hermitage the king saw, by the favour of the sage Kṛṣṇa (Vyāsa), his sons, grand-sons, and other kings and heroes, who were killed in battle, come back again; that was a wonder unsurpassed (*āścaryam anuttamam* 1. 2. 215); seeing it Dhṛtarāṣṭra and Gāndhārī abandoned grief and obtained high perfection (*siddhiṁ paramikāṁ gataḥ* 1. 2. 215); in this *parvan*, we hear of Vidura and Samjaya going to the next world; in this *parvan*, Yudhiṣṭhira met Nārada and heard from him the great killing of the Vṛṣṇis (the Yādavas) 1. 2. 212-217.

Āśvamedhika nt.: Name of the 14th *parvan* in the list of the 18 major *parvans* of the Bhārata (1. 2. 210) [See Āśvamedhika]

Āstika nt.: Name of the 5th *parvan* (also referred to as *ākhyāna*, *kathā* and *purāṇa itihāsa*) in the list of a hundred sub-*parvans* of the Bhārata supposed to have been made by Vyāsa in the Parvasaṁgraha 1. 2. 34, 33, 70.

Described as great (*mahad ākhyānam āstikam*) 1. 13. 4, and attractive (*kathām etām manoramāṁ / āstikasya*) 1. 13. 5; it comprises Adhyāyas 1. 13-53; in this sub-*parvan* we are told about the birth of the snakes and of Garuḍa, the churning of the milky ocean, the origin of Uccaiśravas; it provides the setting for the narration of

the story of the Bhāratas to Janamejaya, son of Parikṣit, who was offering the snake-sacrifice 1. 2. 73-74; according to some the Bhārata begins with the Āstika (*parvan*) (*manvādi bhārataṁ kecid āstikādi tathāpare*) 1. 1. 50; Ruru wanted to know the life story of Āstika (*āstika-carita*), and the narrative (*ākhyāna*) was told to him by his father Pramati 1. 12. 3, 5; the elders called it an ancient *itihāsa* which was narrated by Kṛṣṇa Dvaipāyana (Vyāsa) to the sages in the Naimiṣa forest (*itihāsam imāṁ vṛddhāḥ purāṇaṁ paricakṣate*) 1. 13. 6; narrated by Sūta Lomaharṣaṇa, pupil of Vyāsa, to the Brāhmaṇas at their request; his son Sūta Ugrasravas heard it from Lomaharṣaṇa and he, in turn, narrated it to Śaunaka 1. 13. 7-8, 45; Śaunaka again requested Sūta Ugrasravas to tell the story (*kathā*) of Āstika in detail (*saute kuthaya tām etām vistareṇa kathām punaḥ / āstikasya kaveḥ sādhoḥ śuśrūṣā paramā hi naḥ* //) 1. 14. 1; the narrative of Āstika confers long life (*āyusyam idam ākhyānam āstikam*) 1. 14. 4; the *ākhyāna* of Āstika, his life-story (*carita*), is exceedingly pious (*dharmaśītha*), increases merit (of the listener) (*puṇyavardhana*), and is illustrious (*śrīmat*); one who recites it or listens to it from the very beginning shall have no danger from the snakes 1. 53. 25-26.

Indralokābhigamana nt.: Name of the 32nd *parvan* in the list of a hundred sub-*parvans* of the Bhārata supposed to have been made by Vyāsa in the Parvasaṁgraha 1. 2. 43, 30, 70.

Alluded to in the contents of the Āraṇyaka-parvan (*darśanaṁ lokapālānām svargā-*