

arrogant in battles (*yuddhadurmada*), skilled in fighting with arrows (*dhanurveda-viśārada*) 4. 31. 2; 6. 70. 33; 7. 21. 24; having arms as large as *parigha* (*parigha-bāhu*) 4. 31. 10; ready to give up their lives in battles (*tanūtyaj*) 6. 18. 13; not of cruel appearance (*anṛśamsarūpa*) 5. 47. 33. C. Characteristic nature : According to a certain Brāhmaṇa (8. 30. 57), Matsyas knew the eternal *dharma*; they practised the ancient *dharma* (*matsyāḥ ... dharmam jñānti śāśvatam / ... dharmam purāṇam upajīvanti*) 8. 30. 60-62, 75; according to Rākṣasa Kalmāṣapāda, Matsyas were truth incarnate (*satyam matsyāḥ*) 8. 30. 73. D. Epic events : (1) Pāṇḍavas, after their escape from Vāraṇāvata, passed through Matsyas, Trigartas and other countries 1. 144. 2; (2) Matsyas, afraid of Jarāsandha, fled from the north to the south (*tathottarām diśam parityajya bhayārditāḥ / ... matsyāḥ ... dakṣiṇām diśam āśritāḥ //*) 2. 13. 27; (3) Bhīma in his expedition to the east (2. 26. 1) defeated Matsyas 2. 27. 8-9; (4) Sahadeva in his expedition to the south (2. 28. 1) brought under control the king of Matsyas (*matsyarājām ... vāśe cakre*) and also defeated Aparamatsyas (*aparamatsyāṃś ca vyajayat*) 2. 28. 2, 4; (5) Matsya country was one of those suggested by Arjuna to Yudhiṣṭhira for their stay during *ajñātavāsa* 4. 1. 9-10; (6) Virāṭa offered Kaṅka the rulership of Matsyas (*praśādhi matsyān*) 4. 6. 11; (7) When Brhannaḍā (Arjuna) arrived in the court of Virāṭa, he (Virāṭa) told him to protect Matsyas 4. 10. 7; (8.) In the fourth month of *ajñātavāsa* there was a grand festival in the Matsya

country in honour of Brahman (*atha māse caturthe tu brahmaṇaḥ sumahotsavaḥ / āsīt ... matsyeṣu*) 4. 12. 12; during the wrestling match, when Ballava (Bhīma) whirled his opponent round, Matsyas were struck with wonder 4. 12. 22; (9) Sairandhrī (Draupadī) lamented that no one among the Matsyas, nor any one of those present in the assembly showed any knowledge of *dharma* (*svadharmastho na ca matsyaḥ kathamcana / sabhāsado 'py adharmajñā ...*) 4. 15. 25; Yudhiṣṭhira blamed Sairandhrī (Draupadī) for disturbing the dice-game of Matsyas which was in progress in the royal assembly (*vighnam karoṣi matsyānām dīvyatām rājasamsadi*) 4. 15. 34; (10) Bhīma assured Draupadī that he would kill Matsyas if they came to know that it was he who had killed Kīcaka 4. 21. 33; (11) Suśarman informed Duryodhana that he was formerly often insulted by the Matsyas 4. 29. 2; (12) When the cattle-raid was reported to Virāṭa he ordered his army to get ready to fight (*senām matsyānām samayojayat*) 4. 30. 8; Matsyas encountered Trigartas in the evening (*sūrye pariṇate satī*); Matsyas and Trigartas fought with one another anxious to get control of the cattle 4. 31. 1-2; (the battle is described in 4. 31. 3-24; 4. 32. 1 ff.); when Virāṭa was held captive by Trigartas, Matsyas who were much oppressed by Trigartas fled in fright (*prādravanta bhayāt matsyās trigartair arditā bhṛṣam // teṣu samtrāsyamāneṣu*) 4. 32. 10-11; (13) It was decided that after Trigartas had left for the Matsya country the previous evening, Duryodhana should attack Virāṭa the next morning (4. 42. 10-11); it was