

A. Location : In the realm of Yama (*vaitaranyām ... yamakṣaye*) 12. 290. 31; flows towards the kingdom of Yama (*yathā vaitaraṇī rājan yamarāṣṭrapuraṁ prati*) 7. 146. 47; 6. 99. 38. B. Description : Big river (*mahānadī*) 12. 309. 31; hot (*uṣṇā*) 12. 309. 31; cruel (*krūrā*) 6. 55. 125; fierce (*ugrā*) 8. 55. 42; frightful (*ghorā*) 16. 6. 10; very frightful (*sughorā*) 6. 55. 121; (*subhīmā*) 6. 55. 125; (*mahābhayā*) 7. 48. 50; painful to look at (*durdṛṣā*) 8. 68. 18; river of blood (*aṣṭgjalā*) 7. 48. 49; (*ṣoṇi-ṭaughatarāṅgiṇī*) 7. 146. 47; difficult to cross (*dustarā*) 7. 48. 50; difficult to cross by evildoers (*dustarā pāpakarmabhiḥ*) 1. 158. 19; difficult to cross by those who have not realized the Soul (*vaitaraṇīm ... dustarām akṛtāmabhiḥ*) 8. 55. 42 (also see section F. Similes below). C. Characteristic : A person who does evil deeds (*duṣkṛtakarmā* 12. 309. 30) plunges into Vaitaraṇī; his limbs are cut by a forest of sword-sharp leaves and, lying on the bed of axes, he lives in hell, severely afflicted 12. 309. 31; those who fall in Vaitaraṇī experience grief (*vaitaranyām ca yad duḥkhaṁ patitānām*) 12. 290. 31; (knowing it the followers of the Sāṃkhya doctrine seek knowledge and go beyond the phenomenon of birth 12. 290. 69). D. Form of Gaṅgā : Dvaipāyana (Vyāsa) had declared that the river Gaṅgā became Vaitaraṇī after reaching the world of Pitṛs and was difficult to cross by evildoers (*tathā pitṛn vaitaraṇī dustarā pāpakarmabhiḥ / gaṅgā bhavati gandharva yathā dvaipāyano 'bravīt* //) 1. 158. 19. E. Epic event : When Indra and other gods and Dharmā in bodily form came to meet Yudhiṣṭhira, the river Vaitaraṇī with its thorny Śālmali trees disappeared (*nadī vaitaraṇī caiva kūṭa-*

*śālmalinā saha (nāḍṛṣyata)*) 18. 3. 1-2, 4-5. F. Similes : (1) The river of blood of the warriors killed by Arjuna (6. 55. 121) compared with Mahāvaitaraṇī (*mahāvaitaraṇīprakāśām*) 6. 55. 125; (2) The river of blood and entrails (*lohitāntratarāṅgiṇī*) flowing on the field of battle and carrying away the timid ones compared with Vaitaraṇī which carries corpses to the city of Yama (*yathā vaitaraṇī pretān pretarājapuram prati*) 6. 99. 38; (3) The river made to flow on the field of battle by prominent warriors (*yodhavaraiḥ pravartitā raṇanadī*) compared to Vaitaraṇī 7. 48. 50; (4) The river of blood with mud (*ṣoṇitakardamām // ṣoṇi-todām*) made to flow by Bhīma compared with Vaitaraṇī 8. 55. 38-39, 42; (5) The battle-field appeared like Mahāvaitaraṇī (*raṇabhūmir abhūd rājan mahāvaitaraṇī yathā*) 8. 58. 7; (6) Dvārakā, bareft of Balarāma, Kṛṣṇa and other Yādava heroes, appeared as frightful to Arjuna as Vaitaraṇī (*ghorām nadīm vaitaraṇīm iva*) 16. 6. 10.

Vaitasikā f. : Name of a river.

Described as one that is resorted to by Pitāmaha (Brahman); by reaching it one gets the fruit of a horse sacrifice and obtains the condition of Uśanas (Śukra) (*pitāmaha-niṣevitām / atvamedham avāpnoti gaccheo caṣṭanāsīm gatim*) 3. 82. 50 (Nī. on Bom. Ed. 3. 84. 56 : *auśanasīm gatim śukratvam*).

Vaidasinī f. : Name of a river.

Mentioned in the Daivata-Ṛṣi-Vaṃśa 13. 151. 20, 2.

Vainandī f. : Name of a river.

Listed by Samjaya among the rivers of the Bhāratavarṣa; people used its water for drinking 6. 10. 26, 13; all the rivers listed