

of his father. The twenty-third Vedavyāsa.<sup>1</sup> Brought up in the house of his grandfather who was an amśa of Mr̥tyu (adharma) Vena acquired bad conduct, killed his playmates like animals and became a source of vexation to his father who left the kingdom in disgust and distress. Vena was crowned. Blinded by pride he proclaimed that there should be no more yajñas or gifts in his kingdom.. Lost it through pride of power. He did not listen to the words of sages and asserted he was the highest of all gods. Seeing him perverse and vile, the sages slew him; Sunīthā protected his body by *mantra*. To avoid anarchy and to preserve the line of Anga, the sages churned the thigh of the dead prince and there came a black dwarfish man, the ancestor of the Niṣādha race.<sup>2</sup> They continued to churn the two arms out of which came a male and female child, being the amśa of Viṣṇu and Lakṣmī.<sup>3</sup> Thrown into hell by Brāhmaṇas, was saved from hell by Pṛthu.<sup>4</sup> Pṛthu was the father's part of Vena's body; from the mother's part of his body came the Mlecchas.<sup>5</sup>

Another version: A son of the daughter of Kāla; took to kāma and covetousness; founded an adharma sthāpana, gave up Veda śāstras; subjects of, did not learn Vedas or performed ceremonials or yajñas; made himself the object of sacrifice and worship; enraged by the ṛṣis led by Marīci who advised him to take up the right path; ridiculed them and said he was a mahātmā and could burn the whole world or flood it; hence the sages held him down and had his left hānd churned by force; there came out a short black figure who stood trembling; the sages said niṣāda, the forerunner of the niṣāda-vamśa; then they churned his right hand and Pṛthu was born; Vena died; Pṛthu crowned by all; a good king; his rule and achievements, including the milking of the earth by all beings.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bhā. IV. 13. 18-20; 35. 38; Br. II. 35. 122; M. 4. 44. <sup>2</sup> Bhā. IV. 13. 39, 42 and 47; ch. 14 (whole). <sup>3</sup> Ib. IV. 15. 1-3; 16. 11; X. 73. 20. <sup>4</sup> Ib. II. 7. 9; VII. 1. 16; Br. II. 36. 108-12, 121-27, 150. <sup>5</sup> M. 10. 4-10. <sup>6</sup> Vā. 62. 108-193.