

tries and took tributes from them; heard stories of Kṛṣṇa's heroic deeds in those places; overheard conversation between Dharma moving on one leg and the weeping Goddess of Earth on the advent of Kali and at the departure of Kṛṣṇa to Heaven; reached Sarasvatī where it flows towards the east; saw a Vṛṣala in royal robes beating a white bull tottering on one foot and a cow bereft of calf shedding tears; promised security of life to them; appreciation by Dharma and Parikṣit's answer; Kali in Vṛṣala's garb fell at his feet and was asked to leave Brahmāvarta. But on request the King permitted him to live in five unrighteous regions; dice, wine, women, slaughter-house, and gold;<sup>4</sup> once when he went ahunting he felt thirsty and hungry and entered the hermitage of a sage in meditation; As he was not welcomed he threw a dead serpent on his neck and returned home; the sage's boy got offended and cursed that the King be dead by the bite of Takṣaka in a week; the sage who came to know of it regretted his son's conduct as it was a great punishment for a small offence;<sup>5</sup> the King regretted his deed, knew that the Brahmana's curse would come true and was in a state of *Prāyopaveśa*, when he was visited by sages and kings to whom he bowed; thither came Śuka whom the king enquired as to the beneficial course to seek *mokṣa*; requested Śuka to narrate the stories of Kṛṣṇa;<sup>6</sup> heard the whole of *Bhāgavata Purāṇa* from Śuka and thanked him for enlightening him on *nirvāṇa*;<sup>7</sup> knew of his coming death at the hands of Takṣaka and prepared calmly to cast off his body into Gangā to attain Hari's feet; sat in contemplation in a detached spirit; bitten by Takṣaka, his body was reduced to ashes by the poison; universal surprise and benediction at the occurrence;<sup>8</sup> from P. to Nanda's accession was a period of 1500 years (1050 years *Vi. P.*: 1015 Wilson). Father of Janamejaya and three other sons.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bhā. I. 4. 9-10; 7. 12; 12. 7-30; Br. III. 68. 21; Vā. 99. 249. <sup>2</sup> M. 50. 57. <sup>3</sup> Bhā. I. chh. 16 and 17 (whole). <sup>4</sup> Ib. ch. 18 whole. <sup>5</sup> Ib. ch. 19. 1-16, 32. 38; II. 8. 1-26; VIII. 1. 33. <sup>6</sup> Ib. XII. 6. 1-7. <sup>7</sup> Ib. II. 4. 2; XII. 6. 9-15; 12. 5-6. <sup>8</sup> Br. III. 74. 227, 230; M. 273. 36; Vi. IV, 19. 78; 20-1. <sup>9</sup> Vā. 99, 229, 423; Vi. IV, 19. 78; 20. I.