

younger brothers in charge of the four quarters of the kingdom; nature of his good rule described; in the course of a hunting expedition, he heard the cry of a girl coming out of a well and going near it found a girl inside standing helpless and naked; he gave her his upper cloth to wear and lifted her up. She was Devayānī, the daughter of Śukra and she became his wife and bore him two sons, Yadu and Turvasu. Śukra in offering his daughter to the king asked him not to share his bed with Śarmiṣṭhā. In a weak moment, forgetting his promise, he yielded to the entreaties of Śarmiṣṭhā and on this Devayānī departed to Śukra's place. Yayāti followed her and was cursed by Śukra to become old; but Śukra said that he could take the youth of somebody by exchanging it for his old age. He enquired of all his sons and all except Pūru refused to comply with his request. With Pūru's youth he enjoyed for long the company of Devayānī; narrated to her an old story of an ewe found in a well, loving a ram, who was not faithful at first but who spent ultimately a long time of enjoyment with her. He compared himself to that ram and said that he should thereafter bestow his thought on Hari. So he returned his youth to Pūru and led a life of penance at Bhṛgutunga after anointing Pūru on the throne and appointing his other sons in different parts of the kingdom; discourses of, to Pūru on gentleness and friendliness to all; was devoted to Hari. Parīkṣit compared to Yayāti for his *dharma*.<sup>3</sup> Cursed that Yadu and his line be debarred from succeeding to the throne, though five dynasties of his sons are distinguished like the sun's rays.<sup>4</sup> Tenth in generation from Prajāpati.<sup>5</sup> Went to heaven but Indra sent him back; one version is that he stands in the *antarikṣa* and the other is that he went back to heaven; met Indra and narrated Pūru's coronation: Indra told him of the completion of his righteousness and hence birth on the earth.<sup>6</sup> Falling down, met Aṣṭaka and the other grandsons, who cleared him of his doubts regarding the course of fate and man's helplessness, the fruits of karma, the worlds enjoyed by him, the