Known as Narasoma in his youth. His father wanted him to find a wife but Narasoma rebelled and was kicked out of Mandaraka. In his travels [Bagaspati], an ogre, found him. [Bagaspati]'s daughter [Pujawati] had seen Salya in a dream and [Bagaspati] promised to find Salya for her. But Salya was afraid that [Bagaspati]'s daughter would be an ogre as well and refuse, so he had to be brought by force. Upon seen [Pujawati]'s beauty, though, he immediately fell in love with her. But Salya was still ashamed of having an ogre as a father-in-law. Sensing this, [Bagaspati] agreed to be killed, making Salya promise to be faithful to [Pujawati] his entire life. Salya returned to Mandaraka, and initially this was reason for happiness. That is, until Salya's father realized what his son had done. Salya was then kicked out of his home kingdom for a second time. [Madrim], his younger sister, was saddened by his departure and decided to follow him. Salya had acquired the Aji Candrabirawa amulet from [Bagaspati], and this made him arrogant. In the road, he encountered [Pandu], who had just won [Kunti] in a contest. Salya challenged [Pandu] to a duel. If Salya were to win, he would get [Kunti] as a wife. Otherwise, Salya would give his younger sister as a wife to [Pandu]. [Pandu] won and this is how he came to meet his second wife. This family ties made things difficult fo Salya later one. His daughters married men from Korawa faction ([Karna] and [Duryudana]), but Salya's own nephews were Pandawa ([Nakula] and [Sadewa]). Eventually he decided to pledge allegiance to the Pandawa. But this plan failed. As he was traveling with his army, he was intercepted by [Sengkuni] who showered him with the gifts of hospitality. Salya was then forced to swear allegiance to the Kurawa. But in his heart he favored the Pandawa. His actions also demonstrated this. When [Karna] asked Salya to be his charioteer, Salya accepted, but in a crucial moment, Salya's sudden maneuver made [Karna] unable to hit [Arjuna] with an arrow. After [Karna]'s death, Salya was named general and then died in combat with [Puntadewa].

Thus, he decided to challenge