

(now) narrate this *Purāna* related by Brahmā, which is on a par with the Vedas and which is embellished by sacred treatises consisting of sections on *Dharma* (virtue), *Artha* (wealth) and *Nyāya* (justice or right conduct).

10-12. While Asīmakṛṣṇa,<sup>1</sup> the valiant king of unequalled splendour and the most excellent among sovereigns was ruling over the Earth righteously, the sages of well-disciplined souls performed a sacrifice of long duration in the holy land of Kurukṣetra<sup>2</sup> on the sacred bank of the river Dṛṣadvatī.<sup>3</sup> The sages were devoted to truth and holy rites. They were straightforward. Their sins had been quelled. They were quiescent, had full mental control and had conquered the sense-organs. They were within the precincts of the Naimiṣa<sup>4</sup> forest and had been initiated in accordance with the sacred scriptures.

1. *Asīmakṛṣṇa* : or *Adhisīmakṛṣṇa* :

The great-grandson of Janamejaya III who was the great-grandson of the Mahābhārata hero Arjuna. He was a contemporary of Divākara, king of Ayodhyā and king Senajit of Magadha. All these kings belonged to the 6th or 7th generation of their forebears who participated in the Bhārata war. It was during the reign of Asīmakṛṣṇa that the great *Sattra* of 12 years took place at Kurukṣetra on the bank of the Dṛṣadvatī. The date assigned to this king, viz. B. C. 850 by Pargiter is now discarded.

2. *Kurukṣetra* : The famous battlefield where the war between Kauravas and Pāṇḍavas was fought. The different battles in that war were fought at and around Thanewar in Haryana. Thus Abhimanyu was killed at Amin, 5 miles south of Thanewar; Bhīṣma died at Nagdu, 11 miles to the southwest of Thanewar. Historic battles were fought here from Vedic times to A. D. 1761, the date of the third battle of Panipat, ancient Paṇiprastha—a village claimed by Yudhiṣṭhira from Duryodhana (De, 110).

3. *Dṛṣadvatī* : The Chitang—a tributary of the Ghaggar between the Yamuna and Sutlej—M. Ali, p. 115. De has accepted this identification as correct (p. 58.) instead of with the Ghaggar.

4. *The Naimiṣa forest* : The description here shows that this forest must be located in Kurukṣetra (Kane, *H. D.* IV, 783). It is possible that there were two Naimiṣa forests, the original one on the bank of the Gomati round Nimsār, 45 miles from Lucknow and one in Kurukṣetra as Vā. P. is positive about the performance of the *Sattra* on the Dṛṣadvatī. Was it that sages resident of Naimiṣa forest on the Gomati in U. P. migrated to Kurukṣetra and the sages being Naimiṣeyas (inhabitants of Naimiṣāraṇya), the area of this *Sattra* came to be called Naimiṣāraṇya in Kurukṣetra?