

vented Kṛṣṇa from killing Bhīṣma. But, the Kaurava army faced defeat that day. On the third day Arjuna defeated Bhīṣma, Aśvatthāmā, Trigarta, Bhagadatta and others. Thereupon a really fierce fight began. The war lasted for 18 days. The important incidents during the 18 days can be summarised as follows :—

- (1) Fierce fight between Arjuna and Bhīṣma.
- (2) Fight between Arjuna and Aśvatthāmā.
- (3) Arjuna destroyed the Kaurava army.
- (4) Irāvān, son of Arjuna, was killed.
- (5) Arjuna fought against Droṇa and Suśarmā.
- (6) Took the vow to kill Bhīṣma.
- (7) Śikhaṇḍī prompted to kill Bhīṣma.
- (8) On the appearance of Śikhaṇḍī the Kaurava army, took fright and fled in great disarray.
- (9) Arjuna fought a duel with Duśśāsana.
- (10) Duel with Bhagadatta.
- (11) Duel again with Bhīṣma.
- (12) Bhīṣma fainted and fell on the ground.
- (13) Duel again with Duśśāsana.
- (14) With Śikhaṇḍī in the front made an attack on Bhīṣma.
- (15) Arjuna discharged three arrows to serve as pillow to Bhīṣma who, dislodged from the chariot, was lying on a bed of arrows.
- (16) Cool water sprinkled on the face of Bhīṣma with the aid of divine arrows.
- (17) Fought against Droṇa and defeated his forces.
- (18) Satyajit deputed to remain with Dharmaputra to help him.
- (19) Sudhanvā killed.
- (20) Again fought with Bhagadatta.
- (21) Supratika, the elephant of Bhagadatta killed.
- (22) And after that, Bhagadatta also killed.
- (23) Vṛṣaka and Acala killed by Arjuna.
- (24) Śakuni defeated.
- (25) Arjuna killed the three brothers of Karṇa and confronted Karṇa.
- (26) Abhimanyu, son of Arjuna, killed.
- (27) Hearing about the death of Abhimanyu, Arjuna fell down unconscious.
- (28) Awakened, Arjuna vowed to kill Jayadratha.
- (29) Arjuna performed Śiva Pūjā.
- (30) Arjuna dreamt that night to have paid homage to Śiva along with Kṛṣṇa and that Śiva gave him divine arrows like Pāśupata.
- (31) Marched forth routing the elephant regiment of Durmarṣaṇa.
- (32) Routed Duśśāsana in fight.
- (33) Again fought Droṇa, Kṛtavarmā, Śrutāyudha, Sudakṣiṇa, King of Kāmbhoja.
- (34) Sudakṣiṇa killed in fight.
- (35) Śrutāyu, Aeyutāyu, Niyutāyu, Ambaṣṭha and the Mlecchas' army killed.
- (36) Vinda and Anuvinda killed.
- (37) Warfield converted into a house of arrows, on account of the great collection of arrows.
- (38) Arjuna defeated Duryodhana.
- (39) Fought the nine great warriors on the Kaurava side.
- (40) Arjuna cut off the right hand of Bhūriśravas at the instance of Kṛṣṇa.
- (41) Cut off the head of Jayadratha with arrows. The head and the arrows were thrown on the lap of Jayadratha's father.

- (42) Alambuṣa, King of Rākṣasas killed.
- (43) Daṇḍadhāra killed with his elephant.
- (44) Arjuna killed the six brothers of Suśarmā, viz., Satyasena, Candrasena, Mitrasena, Śrutañjaya, Sauśruti and Mitradharmā
- (45) Difference of opinion arose between Dharmaputra and Arjuna about the failure to kill Karṇa, and in the heat of excitement Arjuna called his elder brother 'thou'.
- (46) Immediately repenting Arjuna drew sword to kill himself. But, regained mental peace by begging pardon of the brother.
- (47) Killed Vṛṣasena, son of Karṇa,
- (48) Karṇa brought down Kṛṣṇa's crown by his arrow resembling the face of the serpent. Enraged at this Arjuna killed Karṇa.
- (49) Killed Satyakarmā, Satyeṣṭha and others.
- (50) After bowing to Vyāsa, Arjuna withdrew arrow. (M.B., Bhīṣma, Droṇa, Karṇa, Śalya and Saupatika Parvas).
- 27) *After the war.* In the great war the Kaurava army, to the very last man, was annihilated. The Pāṇḍavas assembled together. Thoughts about the future came up. Śrī Kṛṣṇa consoled the sorrowing Dharmaputra. As desired by Vyāsa, Kṛṣṇa, Dharmaputra and others returned to Hastināpura and took up the reins of governing the country, and the idea of performing an Aśvamedha Yāga was seriously mooted. A King named Marutta agreed to give money needed for the yajña. Arjuna defeated all enemy kings. (M.B., Śānti Parva).
- 28) *Death and rebirth of Arjuna.* On his way back after digvijaya Arjuna was killed by the arrows of his son, Babhruvāhana. Immediately did Ulūpī, Arjuna's wife bring back to life her husband by Mṛtasāñjivanī mantra. Then Arjuna questioned Ulūpī about the reason for his son killing him, and also as to how she happened to be present at the time. Ulūpī described the story of a curse in answer to Arjuna's query. (M.B., Aśvamedha Parva, Chapter 79).
- 29) *The story of the curse.* Ulūpī said : You shall not get angry. Yes, all is for the best. In war you killed Bhīṣma by unrighteous means, viz. with the help of Śikhaṇḍī. On his death, the Aṣṭavasus and Gaṅgā Devī cursed you with hell. I told about this curse to my father, who begged the Vasus for redemption, and they said that you would be redeemed from the curse when your son, Babhruvāhana, killed you. Accordingly he has been brought here to kill you. The above story pleased Arjuna. (Aśvamedha Parva, Chapter 81).
- 30) *Aśvamedham.* Arjuna again defeated Meghasandhi, the King of Magadha, Śakuniputra and others and returned to Hastināpura, where the Aśvamedha yajña was performed. The Yādava dynasty was extinguished before long. Arjuna did all the rites due to them on death. He grieved over the departure of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 11, Chapter 31). And then he went to Indraprastha with the consorts of Kṛṣṇa. On the way dacoits overcame Arjuna and snatched away some of the females. Arjuna felt very sad. Then Vyāsa appeared and told him that he would be strong and powerful only in the presence of Kṛṣṇa. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 15).
- 31) *Pāṇḍavas' journey to the other world.* Now, it was time for the Pāṇḍavas to journey to the other world.