

anything). Viśvāmitra is doing penance to possess me. I request you to protect me." The King promised her to see that she was not subjected to the molestation of Viśvāmitra any longer. After that Hariścandra went to the hermitage of Viśvāmitra and made an enquiry. He then asked the hermit to stop penance, as his severe, intense, penance was harmful to many people in the country. The King returned to the palace. Viśvāmitra got angry and stood up. Up to this time only a cold war existed between them. Hostility became open now.

Viśvāmitra began to make moves against Hariścandra quickly. He changed a fierce asura into a hog and sent it to the garden of Hariścandra. The hog destroyed the garden. All the attempts made by the guards to drive the hog away ended in failure. They informed the King. The King mounted on a horse and with weapons started for the garden. Without paying any heed to the arrows of the King, the hog ran away. The King began to chase it. The hog seemed to be near. Then it was away, then in front of the King and suddenly it appeared behind him. Then it would disappear instantly. In this manner the hog played around the King. After a while, the King was separated from his army and was entrapped, all alone, in a thick forest. He did not find any way out. He lost his way in the forest. As he was thus walking slowly, he saw a stream of pure water in front of him. Both the King and the horse drank from the stream. As he was standing thus without knowing the way to return home, Viśvāmitra went to him in the guise of an old Brahmin.

The King honoured the old man, and told him that he was Hariścandra, the King of Ayodhyā, and that by chasing a hog which destroyed his garden, he had reached the forest. He continued telling the old Brahmin who had helped him. "You might have heard that Hariścandra, the King of Ayodhyā, had performed the sacrifice Rājasūya. I am that same King. It is my vow to give anybody what he asks for. If you want money or anything for sacrifice or for any other purpose, just come to Ayodhyā. I will give you whatever you want." The old man was pleased. He told the King that the jungle-stream flowed through a holy place and that it would be better to offer the gift after taking a bath in the river. The King purified himself by bathing in the river and then said. "Sir, I am ready to offer gifts. State your needs. It is my vow to give what is requested. At the time of the Rājasūya I acted so towards all of you and took a vow that I would do so in future also. I am glad because I have met you on the bank of this holy stream. So tell me quickly what you want."

Brahmin:—"Oh King, I have heard about your fame. Moreover there is nobody in the world equal to Hariścandra, born of the Solar dynasty, the son of Triśaṅku in liberality. Such is the opinion of hermit Vasiṣṭha. There is nothing more to know about you, oh, King, who is such a man of liberality. I have only one desire. The marriage of my son is being conducted. I do not possess enough money for the marriage. I want only a help for the same." The King thought it to be a very simple request, and promised to give the required amount. Viśvāmitra by illusion customary to Gandharvas created a young man and a young woman, and showed them to the King saying that they were his son and daughter. Then the Brahmin who was delighted by the promise, showed the King the way to the palace.

After making all arrangements for the marriage, Viśvāmitra approached King Hariścandra. The King asked him what amount he required. "Give me your kingdom with all the elephants, horses, chariots, jewels and wealth in it", said Viśvāmitra. The King who had been led to this deception by Viśvāmitra, having no go, agreed. Thus Viśvāmitra obtained the kingdom and everything that Hariścandra possessed. It is conventional that whenever a gift is given to Brahmins, a dakṣiṇā (monetary gift) also should be given along with it. Otherwise the gift will be futile. The King asked the Brahmin what he wanted as dakṣiṇā. He demanded two and a half Bhāras of gold as dakṣiṇā. The King agreed to give that also. But where to get this amount from, since he had lost his kingdom and everything? Having sunk deep in misery due to the deceit of Viśvāmitra, the King sat on the soil, cursing his fate. Seeing this, the queen ran to him and cried. While he was telling his wife every thing, Viśvāmitra came there and said :

Viśvāmitra :—"Hariścandra ! According to the gift hand over your country and everything instantly. I must have the dakṣiṇā of two and a half Bhāras of gold also just now."

Hariścandra :—"Sir ! According to my promise receive everything now. We are leaving the country instantly. But since I have given you everything that I had, how can I give you dakṣiṇā ? Everything I had, has become yours. The amount for dakṣiṇā has yet to be procured. So receive the gift now. The dakṣiṇā shall be given as early as possible."

After giving everything to the hermit, the King left the country with only the cloth he had been wearing. His wife and child followed him. The hermit also followed the King compelling him to give him the dakṣiṇā. The King told him that only after paying this debt would he eat any food, and that he would pay the amount within a month. Viśvāmitra, unwillingly agreed to this.

With his wife Candramatī and his young son, Hariścandra reached Kāśī. After a month Viśvāmitra came to Kāśī for the amount of dakṣiṇā. Finding no go, Candramatī said to her husband. "My Lord ! sell me to some one and clear off this debt." The King with tears agreed to this proposal. Because of their woe and misery, both fell on the ground and fainted. The child sat near them hungry and crying. Viśvāmitra stood near them compelling them to pay the amount. When Hariścandra came to himself, he sold his beloved wife to a Brahmin in the village close by. The Brahmin who bought Candramatī was Viśvāmitra. Hariścandra was not aware of this. After counting out a crore of gold pieces in a cloth and placing it on the ground Viśvāmitra caught hold of Candramatī by her hair and dragged her away. He bought the crying child also paying its price. The Brahmin led the mother and the child, beating and dragging them along, like animals. They disappeared from the sight of the King.

Viśvāmitra again came before Hariścandra and asked for the money. Hariścandra gave Viśvāmitra, all the money he got. The hermit was not satisfied. Viśvāmitra said that the money given, was not an adequate amount as dakṣiṇā when the importance of the great sacrifice Rājasūya was considered and that if he was to get the full benefit of the sacrifice he had to satisfy him by