

MAHABHARATA – Part 13
(Pandavas Incognito starts at Virata's place;
Karna – Sun God – Lord Indra)



Pandavas Incognito Starts at Virata's place:

After Yudhishtira lost the dice match in Hastinapura, the Pandavas were sent into twelve years of exile in forest and one year incognito. It means during the thirteenth year, they had to go into one year of exile where no one recognizes who they are. If they were recognized, they had to do another thirteen years in exile. Now, only a few days remained to complete the stipulated period of the Pandavas twelve years exile in the forest.

The Pandavas had a difficult time during the twelve years of exile, but also, good things happened to them. Arjuna had wrestled with Lord Shiva, and blessed with Pasupatastra. Also got divine weapons in heaven from his father Indra, and from the other gods too. Bhima had met his brother Hanuman, who had increased his strength.

The Pandavas were worried in their minds about the successful ending of their thirteenth year of exile, the period which they had to pass unrecognized. They retired to a secluded spot in the forest and discussed their future line of action. Yudhishtira asked his brothers to select the best place for staying anonymously which would not be known to the enemies. Arjuna suggested many places. Finally, Yudhishtira selected the Matsya country of King Virata.

Then the question was how would they go unrecognized? What would they do to support themselves? Yudhishtira was an expert in the game of dice. So he said he would become a member of the royal assembly of Virata. He would pretend to be a Brahmin by the name of Kanka. Bhima thought about it, and said that he would introduce himself as Ballava and join the royal service as a chef. Next came Arjuna's turn to decide what he would do. He remembered that in heaven, he had been cursed by Urvashi to spend one year as a eunuch. As a eunuch, Arjuna could enter the women's quarters. In heaven he had learned dance from his friend the Gandharva King. So he decided he would teach dance to the ladies at King Virata's Court, and call himself Brihannala.

Next came time for the twins, Sahadeva and Nakula, to decide what they would do. Nakula was an expert in the science of maintaining horses. He said he would work in the King's stables, calling himself Granthika. Sahadeva was an expert in the tending of cattle, so he would work with the King's cattle, calling himself Tantipala. So it was that the great Pandavas would live "incognito", with no one recognizing who they were.

There was one big problem left! What to do with Draupadi, the queen of the Pandavas? Draupadi said she was an expert in caring for the hair of others. She would dress the hair for the royal people in King Virata's court. Having decided, they all headed towards the city of King Virata.

When they were nearing the city, Yudhishtira asked Arjuna where they should hide their weapons. They couldn't very well enter the city carrying their powerful weapons! People would immediately know who they were. Arjuna said that there was a big Sami tree on a peak near the cemetery, and it was difficult to climb. As it was a lonely place, there would

be no possibility of anyone watching when they hid the weapons. Then Yudhishtira ordered Nakula to hide the weapons in the tree. Nakula climbed the tree and put the weapons in the hollow of the tree. He tied them there with a strong rope. They made double sure no one would approach the tree by hanging the body of a dead person in the tree! After that they entered the city of Virata to stay there in disguise. While entering it, Yudhishtira mentally praised Durga Ma, the Divine Mother of the universe, asking Her to protect them. The Pandavas took their employment in the royal court guising themselves in accordance with their duties.

When the fourth month of their stay in disguise commenced, there took place a great festival in the kingdom of Matsya in the honor of Brahma. To participate in that, from all quarters, there arrived thousands of wrestlers. Among them was one big wrestler Jimuta. Jimuta challenged all the wrestlers to fight with him. But they all knew they didn't have a chance against him. When all of the wrestlers became silent, the king of Matsya ordered his chef Ballava (Bhima) to fight with him. In a fierce fight, Bhima beat him. The king was delighted at the defeat of the famous wrestler Jimuta, and presented a large amount of gifts to Bhima. Thus, the Pandavas continued to stay there in secrecy, pleasing the king. The King had no idea that his six new workers were really great royalty.

Karna – Sun God – Lord Indra

King Yudhishtira had a secret fear of Karna in his heart. Ever since his first appearance in the tournament where he challenged Arjuna, the King was worried. Karna and Arjuna had a rivalry and he feared the upcoming battle between them. Lord Indra, King of the gods, Arjuna's father, was also worried. Indra began contemplating how to protect Arjuna from Karna, who was the son of the mighty Surya (sun god). Karna was a great warrior. He was born with wonderful, magical golden armor (kavacha) and beautiful gold earrings (Kundalas). Indra thought if he could deprive Karna of these, he would be weakened.

During the year of incognito exile of the Pandavas, Surya appeared to Karna in a dream. Karna was extremely pleased to see his father Surya in his dream. Surya spoke in voice full of love and compassion: "Listen carefully O, Karna, of what I say. It is well known that you cannot refuse a request made to you at the mid-day, after your worship of me is over. Taking advantage of this generosity of yours, Lord Indra, who is partial to the Pandavas, is planning to come to you as a Brahmin at mid day to ask for your Kavacha and Kundalas. These Kavacha and Kundalas of yours are endowed with divine powers. No Astra (weapon) can pierce your Kavacha. Thus you are safe from all the Astras of Arjuna. But once you part with your Kavacha and Kundala, you shall become vulnerable."

Karna said: "O my Lord! You know of the vow I have made not to refuse a request even if it means my death! I can never swerve from my chosen path of Dharma as a giver!" said Karna. "O Karna! You are a very noble soul for whom Dharma means everything! I am

proud of you. But, when you give away your Kavacha and Kundalas to Indra who will come as an old Brahmin, Indra is sure to grant you a boon. You must ask for his Sakti Weapon which will make up for the loss of your divine armor.” The Sun God blessed Karna and disappeared.

Karna could not sleep after this strange dream. As usual, he went to the riverside to offer his daily worship to his father Surya. He waited eagerly for the Sun to reach the zenith when Indra would come. As the Sun God had predicted, an old Brahmin came to Karna and said, “Please give me alms!” Karna honored the Brahmin and replied, “I will give you anything you ask for!” “Please give me your Kavacha and Kundalas!” said the old Brahmin.

Karna cut away the armor from his body and cut off the earrings from his ears. He placed them at the feet of the old Brahmin and said, “My Lord Indra! I am greatly honored to give you what you have asked for!” Indra was greatly moved by the nobility of Karna who had given his Kavacha and Kundalas even though it meant his death. “O Karna! I am pleased by your generous nature. Ask me for any boon you want” Indra said.

Karna said, “It does not seem graceful to accept anything in return for a gift given to someone. However, I want to ask you to give me your Sakti weapon. I do not want the people to say that king of Gods acted dishonestly with Karna. Hence, I will accept your boon.” Indra was even more impressed by this super human gracefulness, even in giving away one's own life. “You shall have my Sakti. You can use it only once against the enemy. It will kill the person at whom it is aimed. But you can use it only once, after which it will return to me!” said Indra. “I will grant you another boon – as you have cut away the Kavacha and the Kundalas from your body, it shall be made whole and leave no scars.”

Indra blessed Karna and disappeared.

Questions:

What were the terms of the Pandava’s exile?

What were two good things that happened to the Pandavas during the exile?

Where did they decide to go for their thirteenth year?

Name what each of them decided to do while they were in exile.

Why did they choose those professions?

Why couldn’t they enter Virata’s city carrying their weapons?

What did they do with the weapons?

Why did King Virata like Bhima?

Why did Karna worry Yudhisthira and Lord Indra?

Who is Lord Indra?

Who is Lord Surya?

Why would Karna want to worship Surya at mid-day?

What was his habit at the time in regards to Brahmins (members of the priestly class)?
What did Surya tell Karna in a dream?
How did Karna respond?
Did Karna always follow his word, no matter what the consequence? Give an example.
Is this a good way to live?
Do you think Karna was a good person or a bad person?
What did Indra think of Karna and his generosity?
What did Indra give Karna?

Lingashtakam

Brahma Murari surarchita Lingam; Nirmala bhasita sobhita Lingam
Janmaja dukha vinasaka Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (1)

Devamuni pravarchita Lingam; Kamadahana karunakara Lingam
Ravana darpa vinasaka Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (2)

Sarva sugandhi sulepita Lingam; Buddhi vivardhana karana Lingam
Siddha surasura vandita Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (3)

Kanaka maha mani bhushita Lingam; Paniphati veshtitha shobhita Lingam
Dakshasu yajna vinashana Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (4)

Kumkuma chandana lepita Lingam Pankaja hara sushobhita Lingam
Sanchita papa vinashana Lingam Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (5)

Devaganarchita sevita Lingam; Bhavair bhaktibhi revacha Lingam
Dinakarakoti prabhakara Lingam; Tat pranamami Sadasiva Lingam (6)

Ashtadalo pariveshtia Lingam; Sarva samudbhava karana Lingam

Ashtadaridra vinashana Lingam; Tatpranamami Sadashiva Lingam (7)

Suraguru suravara pujita Lingam
Suravana pushpa sadarchita Lingam
Paratparam paramatmaka Lingam
Tatpranamami Sadashiva Lingam (8)

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p_z4oRinK3E

Sri Venkateswara Stotram

kamalAkucha choochuka kunkumatO — niyatAruNitAtula neelatanO
kamalAyata IOchana IOkapatE — vijayeebhava vEnkaTa SailapatE (1)

sachaturmukha shaNmukha panchamukha — pramukhAkhila daivata mouLimaNE
SaraNAgata vatsala sAranidhE — paripAlayamAm vRushaSailapatE (2)

ativElatayA tava durvishahai: — anuvElakRutai raparAdha Satai:
bharitam tvaritam vRushaSailapatE — parayA kRupayA paripAhi harE (3)

adhivEnkaTaSailamudAra matEr — janatAbhi matAdhi kadAnaratAt
paradEvatayA gaditAnnigamai: — kamalAdayitA nnaparam kalayE (4)

kalavENuravA vaSagOpa vadhoo — SatakOTi vRutAt smara kOTi samAt
prativalla vikAbhimatA tsukhadAt — vasudEvasutAnnaparam kalayE (5)

abhirAma guNAkara dASarathE — jagadEka dhanurdhara dheeramatE
raghunAyaka rAma ramESa vibhO — varadO bhava dEva dayA jaladhE (6)

avaneetanayA kamaneeyakaram — rajaneekara chAru mukhAmburuham
rajaneechara rAja tamO mihiram — mahaneeyamaham raghurAmamayE (7)

**sumukham suhRudam sulabham sukhadam — swanujam cha sukAya mamOghaSaram
apahAya raghoodwaha manya maham — na kathanchana kanchana jAtu bhajE (8)**

**vinA vEnkaTESam nanAthO nanAtha: — sadA vEnkaTESam smarAmi smarAmi
harE vEnkaTESa praseeda praseeda — priyam vEnkaTESa prayacCa prayacCa (9)**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7VhEfEud88>

Jumble Words – All words are from this lesson

E R S P U

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D S E H

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R R A O M

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U U T E F R

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H F E C

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L E S U C E D

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R E C P E I

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W L O H L O

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M E E N Y

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B S E T L A

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Coloring exercise: Lord Ganesha

