

# NAKULA

The great epic Mahabharata describes the valour and courage of various characters. The Pandavas are recollected with lot of love whereas the Kauravas are recollected with hatred and anguish. But how much do we know about them. We hardly recollect Nakula or Sahadeva. This analysis is a brief study of Nakula the fourth of the five Pandavas.

Nakula and his twin brother Sahadeva were the youngest of the five Pandavas. They were the son of Pandu's second wife Madri. Since Pandu was cursed he could not produce an heir to the throne of the Kuru clan. Their birth was totally different. Kunti was the first wife of Pandu, she was blessed with a boon that would invoke any god of her choice and he would bless her with a child. She shared this boon with Madri. With that special mantra she invited Ashwini kumara to have children with, Nakula and Sahadeva were born.

Nakula is known to be the most handsome person according to Mahabharata. The question that arises in my mind is since Nakula and Sahadeva were twins, then how is it possible that Nakula was most handsome among the five Pandavas?! Although Nakula does not play an important role in Mahabharata. He is said to be one of the best swordsman and also he is instrumental in helping his elder brother Yudhishtira to regain his powers to the throne of Indraprastha. He was blessed with special powers like horse breeding, treating illness of horse, and breaking horses temper, he was also a good charioteer, and an expert in Ayurveda, he also had the power to communicate with animals. While Pandavas were in their thirteen year of exile, which they decided to spend in Virata kingdom Nakula played a role as a horse-keeper. one of his famous skills as a swordsman is, it is said that whenever Nakula rided his horse in rain, he used his sword to deflect every single drop of rain and He would emerge completely dry.

Nakula married Draupadi and begotten a son, Satanika. Satanika played a helpful role in great Kuru war. Even he was described as being "that crusher of foes". Nakula had another son Niramitra born from his second wife, Karenumati.

After demise of Pandu and Madri, Madri's brother Salya intended to make Nakula and Sahadeva as heirs to the throne of Madra kingdom. Nakula refused the offer; this shows the bonding of love and affection that Nakula had towards his brothers and second mother Kunti. When Yudhishtira lost the dice game, Draupadi was dragged into the court and was ordered to be disrobed. Nakula Being her life partner did not stop this horrific act, it said that a husband's duty is to protect her wife with whatever he has, her dignity is said to be their dignity then after all this how could he sit silent without even raising a word, this till date questions the responsibilities of a husband. But he vowed that he would kill Shakuni who was the main cause for their hardships. Instead of vowing he could stop the action but he did not do that.

It is also said that he had a boon to look into the past and the present in that he must have seen the game of dice and Draupadi being disrobed, if he already saw all this then why didn't he stop all of this from happening from the beginning itself.

During their period of exile, one day Pandavas went for hunting. They left Draupadi alone with sage Dhaumya. It is said that when the Pandavas were away Jayadratha and his twelve brothers kidnapped Draupadi. Again there is question that can be asked, Draupadi had five husbands and none of them could protect her why? Women are a responsibility, a wife should be always loved cherished and taken care of then why Draupadi in spite of having five husbands is always left insecure?

They spent their last year of exile in Virata kingdom, during this time of their stay Draupadi was again insulted and was assaulted by Kichaka, who was the commander in chief of Virata. But once again she did not have her husbands to protect her.

When Duryodhana refused to give them their share of five small villages. Its then when Pandavas decided for war. Its then when the battle of kuruksetra was initiated and it went on for eighteen days. In the war, Nakula along with Bhīma led Pandavas in the first day of war. He defeated Dushasana on the very first day. He even checked the attacks of warriors like Bhishma, Drona, Karna, Duryodhana, and Ashwathama. He also defeats his uncle Salya in battle. He killed three of Karna's sons Chitrasena, Satyacena and Sushena on final day.

His greatest battle was his fight against Karna. He fights valorously and even his unknown brother Karna was impressed. He breaks Karna's bow four times and wounds him very badly and that prolongs for an hour but Karna being a greater bowman has Nakula at his mercy and spares his life because of a promise that he made to Kunti. So he was very brave and had a small but worthy contribution in the winning of Pandavas in the kuruksetra war.

On the eighteenth day of war he defeated Shakuni's son Ulook, and he killed Shakuni which fulfilled his vow. After the war Yudhishtira appointed Nakula as a military official with duties of keeping the register of the forces, and for supervising other affairs for the army.

Nakula was the most handsome person in Kuru lineage. "Nakula thought that there was nobody that equalled him in his beauty of person". Nakula's attitude towards himself as being most beautiful was un-dermic and as a consequence he was not accepted into the heaven, except Yudhishtira, all Pandavas grew weak and died. Nakula was third one to fall after Draupadi and Sahadeva. It is said that he died because of his prudence that he had. Is it possible!! .