

## SEM I

### Summary of the Dice scene in Mahabharata

Duryodhana wanted to take revenge on Pandavas and Draupadi too. He told his uncle Shakuni that he wanted to wage a war against the Pandavas to avenge the insult. But Shakuni said that Duryodhana would lose the war because Duryodhana was no match to Arjuna and Bheema's prowess. Shakuni hence told Duryodhana that they should plan something else and came up with a cunning plan. He asked Duryodhana to invite Yudhishtira for a Royal Feast for celebrating his Kingship and cunningly introduce a game of dice as part of the party. Since Yudhishtira had a weakness for gambling, he was sure that Yudhishtira would agree for the game. "Go, ask your father for permission. But remember not to mention about the game of dice", said Shakuni. Duryodhana convinced Dhritarashtra and made him invite the Pandavas for the feast. Sanjaya, the Minister of the Royal Court was sent to invite the Pandavas, Draupadi and their Mother Kunti. Yudhishtira happily agreed and set out with Sanjaya, with his family along. They were received with grandeur and respect. Celebrations were held at every corner of Hastinapur. The Pandavas were also happy. The party was filled with music and dance performances by artists from every corner of the country. The Grand feast was enjoyed every bit by the guests. After the feast, as everyone was chatting, Duryodhana suggested to play a game of dice. At first the Pandavas disagreed, but Yudhishtira agreed to play since he thought it would be a good way to spend their time. The game began between the Pandavas and the Kauravas. The women went back to the Palace chambers. Duryodhana managed to bring in Shakuni on their behalf to play the game saying that he did not know the rules of the game and would be no match to Yudhishtira. The other Pandavas sensed something fishy. But Yudhishtira said that these should not be taken seriously since it was only meant to be a game of fun. The game began with each side betting small amount of money. Shakuni let Yudhishtira win the initial games. The wins further tempted Yudhishtira to continue the game betting jewelry, large amount of money, lands etc. That's when Shakuni started his real game. He was known for cheating in such a manner that the numbers on the dice would always turn to his advantage. Slowly Yudhishtira was ripped off his wealth. It came to a point when Yudhishtira was stripped off his Kingdom. Duryodhana

taunted Yudhishtira to bet on his brothers for the next game. Yudhishtira agreed and lost them too. He then put himself at stake and lost again. In the next game, he lost Draupadi too. Now Yudhishtira had to accept defeat since he had nothing more to lose. Duryodhana had all reasons to take revenge on Pandavas and Draupadi. He wanted to insult Draupadi as a payback for the treatment at Indraprastha ( Chapter 19 ) . He ordered Dushasana to drag Draupadi out of her chamber as he considered her a slave now. Dushasana dragged her by her hair to the court. Duryodhana insulted her by hitting his thighs and signaling her to sit on his thighs. Bheema grew wild with rage. Duryodhana then instructed his brother to pull her royal robes out of her since she no longer was a queen and was only a slave to the Kauravas. Dushasana pulled out her robes. Draupadi looked out for help from her husbands but the Pandavas could do nothing and hung their heads helplessly. Draupadi had no support from anyone present in the Durbar including the Royal family. So she called out for her only Hope – The One and Only Lord Krishna to save her from the humiliation. Lord Krishna answered her Prayers and appeared to the eyes of Draupadi. He was invisible to everyone else around. Dushasana pulled her robes but her robes continued to keep increasing in length leaving a huge mountain of robes on the floor. Dushasana grew completely tired and fell on the floor breathless. Lord Krishna thus saved Draupadi from the complete insult. The Pandavas, all the while helpless were extremely furious with the entire incident. Bheema vowed to avenge the insult by killing all the Kauravas. He vowed to break the hands of Dushasana that dragged Draupadi, kill him and drink his blood. He also vowed to break the thighs of Duryodhana. Arjuna vowed to kill Karna who supported the Kauravas. Sahadeva vowed to kill Shakuni. The sad part of this whole episode was that the complete incident took place under the very eyes of the elders of the Kuru court. Dhritarashtra and all the elders in the court panicked at the anger of the Pandavas and pleaded Draupadi to forgive everyone for their silence and the misbehavior of the Kauravas. Dhritarashtra granted Draupadi two boons that she could wish immediately. Draupadi sought the freedom of her husbands for the first boon and the return of their complete wealth and Kingdom as the second boon. The Pandavas returned back to Indraprastha. Duryodhana was extremely angry with his father and scared him saying that the Pandavas with their wealth and Kingdom would easily overpower the Kaurava clan and would kill them all as per the vows. He hence wanted to invite them for a second game of dice with the condition that the losing side should surrender their wealth and Kingdom and go for a 13 years exile – 12 years in the forests and 1 year in hiding. During the

13th year of exile, if their true identity was revealed, they would have to spend another 12 years in the forests. Dhritarashtra was convinced and Yudhishtira was invited again. Yudhishtira agreed for the game again and as expected, he lost the game. The Pandavas set out on their period of exile along with Draupadi.