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U.G. Semester-I MJC I

Give the summary of the book of the assembly hall in Mahabharat.

The "Assembly Hall" in the Mahabharata is a significant and complex episode within the epic Indian mythological text. It takes place in the great city of Hastinapura and serves as a pivotal moment in the unfolding of the Mahabharata's central conflict. The assembly hall is known as the "Kuru Sabha" or "Sabha Parva" and is where many key events occur, including the infamous game of dice, which ultimately leads to the Kurukshetra war.

The Kuru Sabha or Assembly Hall is where the narrative of the Mahabharata takes a significant turn. It is located within the palace of Hastinapura, the capital city of the Kuru kingdom. The saga revolves around the two main branches of the Kuru dynasty: the Pandavas and the Kauravas. The eldest Kaurava, Duryodhana, harbors jealousy and resentment towards the Pandavas, especially Yudhishthira, the eldest of the Pandavas, who is known for his wisdom and righteousness.

The central event in the Kuru Sabha is the game of dice orchestrated by Duryodhana, with the support of his uncle Shakuni, who is portrayed as a master manipulator. Duryodhana invites the Pandavas to the assembly hall under the pretext of a friendly game of dice, but his true intentions are malicious. Yudhishthira, known for his sense of duty, accepts the invitation.

The game of dice is a metaphorical representation of the battle for power, wealth, and righteousness. The dice game begins with Yudhishthirabu staking his kingdom, wealth, and even himself in a reckless gambling match. As the game progresses, Shakuni manipulates the dice, causing Yudhishthirachto lose everything. The situation becomes increasingly tense and hostile, with Duryodhana and his allies celebrating their victories.

Yudhishthira's predicament is symbolic of the ethical and moral dilemmas faced by individuals in their pursuit of power and wealth. His gambling addiction and inability to say no to the dice game serve as a he cautionary tale about the consequences of making unwise choices driven by desire and ego.

Draupadi, the wife of the Pandavas, is humiliated during this game. Duryodhana, goaded by his malice, orders Draupadi to be brought into the assembly hall. He commands his brother, Dushasana, to disrobe her in front of the court. This disgraceful act symbolizes the degradation of honor and the disregard for justice.

Draupadi prays to Lord Krishna for help, and in a miraculous intervention, her saree keeps unraveling, protecting her modesty and thwarting Dushasana's attempts to disrobe her. This divine intervention underscores the idea that righteousness and faith can overcome even the direst circumstances.

The game of dice eventually concludes with Yudhishthira staking himself and losing, leading to the Pandavas' exile from Hastinapura for thirteen years, which includes one year in incognito. The Pandavas accept the terms of exile and leave Hastinapura, vowing to return and reclaim their kingdom. The Assembly Hall episode highlights several significant themes.