

child at once went away to the forest, commenced a course of religious austerities and was finally elevated by Vishnu to the skies as the Polar star, after enjoying sovereignty for a long time.

**नकुल** The fourth of the Pándava princes, son of Pándu by Mādri, really begotten by the elder As'vin. He was famous for his wisdom.

**नंद** The chief of the cowherds, husband of Yas'odá. It was to his care the infant Krishna was committed when Kansa sought to destroy the child.

**नमुचि** A demon. He was a friend of Indra and, taking advantage of his friendship, drank up his strength. The As'vins and Sarasvatí, in consequence, gave Indra a thunderbolt with which he smote off the head of the demon.

**नरनारायण** The two great *Rishis* practising penance at Badarikás'rama on the Himálaya. Indra, alarmed at their penances, sent heavenly nymphs to disturb their devotions, but Naráyana put these damsels to shame by creating a nymph (उर्वशी) from his thigh far excelling Indra's nymphs in beauty, (Vikr. 1.). The names are also applied to Krishna and Arjuna.

**नरक** A demon born of the earth. To relieve the world of his tyranny, Krishna killed him in a fierce combat. In his harem Krishna found sixteen thousand and one hundred damsels who became his wives.

**नल** The king of Nishadha. He possessed all the noble qualities and attainments that would distinguish a monarch. After his marriage with Damayanti, Nala, duped by Kali, lost his kingdom by gambling and was banished to the wilderness with Dama-

yanti. He left his wife asleep in the forest and roamed about the earth at will. After passing through a series of stormy adventures he regained his beloved spouse with his kingdom and ruled happily.

*See दमयंती and क्षत्रपण.*

**नहुष** The eldest of the five sons of A'yus. Having attained the rank of Indra he compelled the *Rishis* to bear his litter and was cursed by them to fall from his state and to reappear upon earth as a lizard.

**नारद** A divine sage born from the hip of Brahman (म.). He is often described as engaged in conveying messages and causing discord among gods and men. He is said to be the inventor of the lute (वीणा) and the author of the code which goes by his name.

**निमि** One of the sons of Ikshvaku, who became the primogenitor of the Vaideha dynasty which ruled in Mithilā.

**नृग** A son of Manu Vaivasvata who, by the curse of a Brāhmana, became a lizard.

**परशुराम** Son of Jamadagni, the sixth incarnation of Vishnu. While young he cut off the head of his mother Renuká at the desire of his father. While he was away from home his father was slain by the sons of Kártavírya. Paras'urāma, to avenge his father's unmerited fate, vowed to extirpate the *Kshatriyas* and "Thrice seven times did he clear the earth of the regal race." He was afterwards defeated by Rāma and is believed to be still practising austerities on the Mahendra mountain. Being jealous of Ka'rtikeya he is said to have once pierced the Krauncha mountain right through with his arrows. (Megh. 1. 57.)

**परीक्षित** Son of Abhimanyu and grand-son of