

open S'ambara's wife Mâyâvatî found in it a beautiful boy and reared him up. When Pradyumna knew that S'ambara had stolen him when a child he defied the demon to battle and killed him and went back to his father's house with Mâyâvatî as his wife.

**प्रदीपा** Sovereign of the kingdom of women. She was conquered by Arjuna and became his wife.

**प्रह्लाद** The son of Hiranyakas'ipu, who, from the influence of a prior existence, became a worshipper of Vishnu. His father subjected him to a variety of cruelties to compel him to renounce the worship of Vishnu, but to no purpose. At last Hiranyakas'ipu asked Prahrâda that if Vishnu was everywhere how he was not visible in the pillar of the assembly hall. Prahrâda thereupon struck the column with his fist when Vishnu issued from it half-lion and half-man and tore Hiranyakas'ipu to pieces.

**प्रह्लाद** A demon killed by Bhîma. (Ve. vi.).

**बभ्रुवाहन** Son of Arjuna by Chitrângadâ. When the sacrificial horse of Yudhishthîra, escorted by Arjuna, went to Babhruvâhana's city he seized the animal, but on learning that it belonged to the Pândavas, restored it to his father Arjuna with professions of affection. The latter, however, attributed it to the cowardice of his son which led to a battle in which Arjuna was slain but was afterwards restored to life.

**बलराम** The seventh son of Vasudeva by Devakî transferred to the womb of Rohini to save him from Kansa's cruelty. He with Krishna was brought up by Nanda. While young, he killed the demons Dhenuka and Pralamba. He is said to have dragged

towards him with his ploughshare the city of Hastinâ and also the river Yamunâ. He was very fond of wine and blue clothes and is represented as armed with a plough-share and as the patron of agriculture. He was married to Revatî to whom he was firmly attached. Balarama is sometimes regarded as the eighth incarnation of Vishnu. (Git. G. 1.).

**बलि** A mighty demon, son of Virochana and the grandson of प्रह्लाद. He conquered the gods who prayed to Vishnu for succour. The latter was then born on the earth as Va'mana and prayed Bali to give him as much earth as he could step over in three steps. This request being granted Vishnu assumed a mighty form and covered the earth by the first step and the heavens by the second. No room being left for the third, Va'mana planted his foot on Bali's head and sent him down to Pâtâla.

**बाण** The eldest son of Bali and the father of Ushâ q. v.

**बिभीषण** Brother of Ra'vana. He censured Râvana for his gross misconduct in carrying off Sitâ and advised him to restore her to Râma. But seeing that Râvana was intractable he went over to Râma. After Râvana's death he was installed emperor of Lankâ.

**बृहस्पति** Preceptor of the gods. His wife Târâ was carried off by Soma who refused to give her up. A war ensued and Brahman (1.) had at last to compel Soma to restore her to her husband. Târâ afterwards gave birth to a son whom she declared to be born of Soma. This son, Budha, was the ancestor of the Lunar race.