

**ब्रह्मन्** The first deity of the Hindu triad to whom is entrusted the work of creation. He is described as born in the lotus which sprung from the navel of Vishnu. As the father of men he is represented as performing the work of procreation by incestuous intercourse with his own daughter Saraswati'. The deity is also represented as rising self-existent from the waters and creating the heaven and earth by laying a golden egg and dividing it into halves. Then he created Marichi from whom descended Kas'yapa, Vivasvat and Manu the primogenitor of men. Another account is that after dividing the golden egg the deity separated himself into male and female parts from which sprang विराट् and from him Manu, the law-giver. Originally he had five heads but one was burnt off by the fire of S'iva's central eye. His vehicle is a swan.

**भगवत्** King of the Prāgjyotishas who fought on the side of the Kauravas in the great war and was slain by Arjuna.

**भगीरथ** A descendant of Sagara who practised austerities for a thousand years and brought the Ganges to the earth to bathe the ashes of his ancestors who had been burned to ashes by the wrath of Kapila.

**भरत** I. Son of Das'aratha and Kaikeyi. He was firmly devoted to Rāma and was deeply grieved to learn that his mother had been instrumental in sending Rāma into exile. He would not accept the throne and ruled his father's kingdom in the name of Rāma while the latter was in exile. II. Son of Dushyanta and S'akuntalā who gave his name ( भरतवर्ष ) to India. Ninth in descent from him came Kuru and four

teenth from Kuru came S'antanu, the greatgrand-father of the Pāndavas.

**भीम** The second of the five sons of Pāndu begotten on Kuntiby Vāyu. He was famous for his strength and swiftness and for the unfailing use of his club. The principal events of his life are his conquest of Jarāsandha, the fearful vow uttered by him against Duryodhana and Duhs'āsana, his pursuit of Jayadratha after the abduction of Draupadi, his engagement as head cook in the house of king Virāta, the enormous quantity of food which he daily consumed, his contest with Kichaka, and his killing Duryodhana and his brothers in the great war. He died with the other Pāndavas on the Himālaya. His name is applied to a person who is strong and dauntless.

**भीष्म** Son of S'antanu and the river Ganges and grand-uncle of the Pāndavas and Kauravas. His father in his old age desired to marry a young and beautiful damsel, but her parents refused to give her to him, on the ground that her sons would not succeed to the throne, Bhishma being the rightful heir. In order to please his father Bhishma made a vow to the parents of the damsel that he would never accept the kingdom or marry a wife or become the father of children by any woman. His name is traced to this "terrible vow." Bhishma, henceforth, became the patriarch of the family and is represented as a model of faithfulness and loyalty. He installed his brother Vichitra-vi'rya on the throne, got him married ( See अंग ) and brought up his sons and grandsons. He was mortally disabled by