

Ś'ikhandin or rather by Arjuna in the *Bhārati* war, but having the power of fixing the period of his death he lived till the sun had crossed the vernal equinox.

शुतिभरत A warrior who fought on the side of the Kauravas in the great war and was slain by Sātyaki.

शुगु An ancestor of Paras'urāma. At the request of other *Rishis* he went out to test the characters of various gods. He first went to Ś'iva, and not getting an interview, cursed him to take the form of a *Linga*. He next went to Brahman(m.), but being received with great indifference, declared that the deity should receive no worship or offering. Lastly he went to Vishnu but finding him asleep kicked him on the breast. Instead of being offended Vishnu pressed his feet gently and declared himself honoured by the treatment. Bhṛigu consequently declared him to be the only deity entitled to the worship of gods and men.

मंथरा An old female servant who persuaded Kaikeyi to secure the throne of Ayodhyā to Bharata, her own son, and to send Rāma into exile.

मंदोदरी Wife of Rāvana. She is famous for her devotion to her husband.

मय The architect of the *Daityas*. Arjuna once saved his life and, in return, Maya erected for the Pāṇdavas an assembly-hall, wonderful in every way.

मरीचि The father of Kas'yapa and one of the Prajāpatis who sprung direct from Brahman (m.).

मरुत A sovereign of the Solar race, well-known for having performed a sacrifice which was attended and guarded by gods.

महिष A demon slain by Durgā.

माद्री Second wife of Pāṇḍu, and mother of Nakula and Sahadeva. See पांडु.

मांधातृ A famous king, son of Yavanās'va.

मारीच Son of Sunda and Tadakā. It was he who allured Rāma away in the form of a golden deer and thus assisted Rāvana in his design of carrying off Sītā.

मालववत् Maternal grand-uncle and minister of Rāvana. Lankā was originally built for him. But it was deserted by him and occupied by Kuvera. Rāvana recovered it from the latter and Mālyavat returned with his relations to live with Rāvana.

मुचुकुंद Son of Māndhātṛi. He once assisted the gods in fight and secured from them, as a boon, long sleep and the instant death of him who would disturb it. By a stratagem of Krishna, Kālayavana was led to rouse Muchukunda and fell a victim to his wrath.

यदु The eldest son of Yayāti and Devayā'ni' and ancestor of the Yādavas.

यवति Son of Nahusha. He married Devayā'ni', daughter of S'ukra and subsequently S'armishthā, the daughter of Vṛishaparvan, who was ordered by her father to attend on Devayā'ni' as a servant for the offence she had given to the latter. (See देवयानी). Through the curse of S'ukra, Yayāti became old and infirm before his time, but having appeased his father-in-law he obtained permission to transfer his decrepitude to any one who would consent to take it. Out of his five sons Puru respectfully complied with his father's desire. The king, now endowed with renovated youth, passed his time in the enjoyment of pleasures. A