

He had ten heads and twenty arms (and also four legs in infancy, R. xii. 88) and had the power of assuming any form at will. In his attempt to propitiate Brahman (m.) he is said to have cut off all his heads but one, when the deity was pleased. He was the most powerful king of his day. Even the gods yielded to his power and were almost enslaved by him. He once attempted to uproot the Kailāsa mountain but S'iva pressed it down and crushed the demon's hands under it; from this calamity he was relieved only by propitiating that deity. His character is described as libidinous and cruel. In consequence of his having abducted Sitā, Rāma invaded Lankā and killed him in fight.

राहु A demon, son of Viprachitti and Sinhika'. When *Amrita* was being served to gods he attempted to partake of it; but the sun and the moon detected him and Vishnu cut off his head. However, having tasted a little of it he became immortal and wreaks his vengeance on the sun and the moon by occasionally swallowing them. (Bhartr. ii. 34). In astronomy Rāhu and Ketu are regarded as names for the ascending and descending nodes.

रुक्मिणी Daughter of king Bhi'maka. She was betrothed to S'is'upāla. But she had entertained a passion for Krishna and sent to invite him to carry her off. Krishna made her his own by the *Ra'kshasa* ritual. Pradyumna was her son.

रजुका Wife of Jamadagni and mother of Paras'ura'ma. See परशुराम.

रेवती Daughter of Raivata, and wife of Balarāma.

रोहिणी I. One of the numerous daughters of

Daksha and the most favourite wife of the moon. II. One of the wives of Vasudeva and the mother of Balarāma.

रुक्मण Son of Das'aratha by Sumitrā. He was faithfully attached to Rāma and followed him to the wilderness. In the war of Lankā he killed Indrajit, the most powerful son of Rāvana. He one day interrupted the interview of Rāma with Time in the guise of an ascetic and as a consequence had to drown himself to death in the Sarayū.

रुद्र One of the twin sons of Rāma by Sitā, born after she had been abandoned by her husband and brought up at the hermitage of Vālmī'ki.

रुद्रण A demon killed by S'atrughna.

रुक्मी The goddess of fortune produced at the churning of the ocean. She became the consort of Vishnu.

लोपामुद्रा The wife of Agastya (q. v.) and the daughter of the king of Vidarbha. It was for her that the sage went out to acquire riches and destroyed Vātāpi and Ilvala in the attempt.

लोमपाद A king of the Angas. See लक्ष्यकुंग.

वत्सला Daughter of Balarāma married to Abhimanyu.

वसिष्ठ A celebrated sage, the family-priest of the Solar dynasty of kings. Numerous legends are told of him.

वसुदेव Father of Krishna and Balarāma.

वामन Vishnu born as the son of Aditi and Kas'yapa for the subjugation of Bali. He is regarded as the fifth incarnation of Vishnu. See वलि.

वालि A great monkey-chief, who was killed by Rāma at the instigation of Sugriva, Vāli's younger brother. His wife Tāra subsequently married Sugri'va.