

knowing the size of the earth." They also went to different sides and never returned just like rivers falling into the ocean. The loss of the Śabalāśvas infuriated Dakṣa and he cursed Nārada.

Again to commence creation Dakṣa got of Asikni sixty girls. Of these ten he gave to Dharmadeva, thirteen to Kaśyapa, twentyseven to Soma and four to Ariṣṭanemi. Two were given to Bahuputra, two to Aṅgiras and two to the scholar Kṛśāśva. Dharmadeva's wives were Arundhatī, Vasu, Yamī, Lambā, Bhānu, Marutvatī, Saṅkalpā, Muhūrtā, Sādhyā and Viśvā. Of Viśvā were born Viśvedevas. Sādhyā delivered the Sādhyas, Marutva, the Marutvans and Vasu, Vasus. Bhānus were born of Bhānu. From Muhūrta came Muhūrtābhīmānis and from Lambā, Ghoṣa and from Yamī, Nāgavithī. (Chapter 15, Anuśāsana Parva, 1; Viṣṇu Purāṇa and Skandha 6, Bhāgavata).

**ASIKRṢṆA.** Son of Aśvamedhas, a King of the Lunar dynasty. (Bhāgavata, 9th Skandha).

**ASILOMA.** Prime Minister of Mahiṣāśva. (Devī Bhāgavata, 5th Skandha).

**ASIPATRAVANA.** One of the notorious twentyeight hells. If you destroy forests without purpose you will go to this hell. (Chapter 6, Anuśāsana Parva 2, Viṣṇu Purāṇa). The Devī Bhāgavata describes Asipatravana like this : "Those who forsake their own natural duty and go in for that of others are thrown into this hell; they die by the orderlies of Yama, the King of Death. There they will be whipped by a whip made of thorny herbs and as they run about with pain they will be followed and whipped. Crashing against the big stones there they will fall fainting and the moment they wake up from the faint they will be stabbed again. This will be repeated. (Aṣṭama Skandha, Devī Bhāgavata).

**ASITĀ.** A celestial maiden. She had taken part in the birthday celebrations of Arjuna. (Śloka 63, Chapter 122, Ādi Parva, M.B.).

**ASITA I.** One of the Ṛtviks of the Sarpasatra of Janamejaya.

*Some details.* (1) The prominent Ṛtviks were Bhārgava, Kautsa, Jaimini, Sārṅgarava, Piṅgala, Vyāsa, Uddālaka Pramattaka, Śvetaketu, Asita, Devala, Nārada, Parvata, Ātreya, Kuṇḍajāra, Kālaghāts, Vātsya, Kohala, Devaśarmā, Maudgalya, Samasaurabha. (Chapter 53, Ādi Parva, M.B.)

(2) Asita, Devala, Vaiśampāyana, Sumantu and Jaimini were disciples of Vyāsa. (Prathama Skandha, Devī Bhāgavata).

(3) Asita, the sage, got by the blessing of Śiva a son named Devala. (Brahmavaivarta Purāṇa).

(4) Once Asita muni explained to King Janaka the philosophy of rebirth. (Brahmaṇḍa Purāṇa, Chapter 47).

**ASITADEVALA.**

*Main details.* (1) He is one of those who spread the story of Mahābhārata to the public. Vyāsa wrote the Mahābhārata into a lakh of books and first taught the great epic to his son, the sage Śuka. He later expounded it to many other disciples. Nārada spread the story among the devas, Devala among the Pitṛs, Śuka among Gandharvas and Yakṣas and Vaiśampāyana among men. (Ślokas 107 & 108, Chapter 1, Ādi Parva, M.B.).

(2) He was present at the Sarpasatra of Janamejaya. (Śloka 8, Chapter 53, Ādi Parva, M.B.).

(3) He attended the coronation of Yudhiṣṭhira along with Nārada and Vyāsa. (Śloka 10, Chapter 53, Sabhā Parva, M.B.). See under Devala for more information. **ASITADHANVĀ.** A king of Vedic times. Sāmkyāyana Sūtra states that the Veda of Asuravidyā was written by this King.

**ASITADHVAJA.** Son of Kaśyapa and Vinatā. He was present at a birthday celebration of Arjuna. (Śloka 72, Chapter 122, Ādi Parva, M.B.).

**ASITAKĀŚYAPA (DEVALA).** For details see under JAIGIṢAVYA and Devala.

**ASITAPARVATA.** A mountain situated on the banks of the river, Narmadā, in the country of Ānarta. (Śloka 11, Chapter 89, Vana Parva, M.B.).

**AŚMAKA I.** Son born to Vasiṣṭha by the wife of Kalmāṣapāda the King of Ayodhya. (Sec Ikṣvāku varṁśa) while the King Kalmāṣapāda was walking through the forest hunting he saw Śaktī the son of Vasiṣṭha. As Śaktī did not care to give room for the King, Kalmāṣapāda wounded Śaktī, who cursed the King and changed him to a Rākṣasa (giant). The giant immediately killed Śaktī. After many years Vasiṣṭha blessed the King and changed the form of the giant and gave him back his former shape. The King was delighted at having recovered his former shape. He took Vasiṣṭha to his palace. Madayanti the wife of the King with his permission went to Vasiṣṭha and got with child. Vasiṣṭha returned to the forest. Even after the lapse of a long period she did not give birth to the child. Madayanti who was miserable at this, took an 'aśman' (a small cylindrical piece of the granite used to crush things placed on a flat square piece of granite) and crushed her stomach with it and she delivered a son. As he was born by using 'Aśma' he was named Aśmaka. This King had built a city called Paudhanyā. (M.B., Ādi Parva, Chapter 176).

**AŚMAKA II.** Aśmaka (m) is a place between the rivers Godāvari and Māhiṣmati. Aśmaka was a king of this land. He fought against the Kauravas on the Pāṇḍava side. (Karna Parva).

**AŚMAKA III.** A sage. (M.B., Śānti Parva, Chapter 47, Śloka 5).

**AŚMAKADĀYĀDA.** Son of the King Aśmaka. He was a soldier of the Kaurava army. He was killed in the battle by Abhimanyu. (Ślokas 22 and 23, Chapter 37, Droṇa Parva, M.B.).

**AŚMAKI.** Wife of Prācinvē. Kaśyapa was born to Marīci, son of Brahmā. To Kaśyapa was born of his wife Aditi, daughter of Dakṣa, Vivasvān. Descending in order from Vivasvān were born Manu, Ilā, Purūravas, Āyus, Nahuṣa, Yayāti. Yayāti had two wives, Devayānī and Śarmiṣṭhā. The first was the daughter of Śukra and the second the daughter of Vṛṣaparvā. To Devayānī were born two sons, Yadu and Turvasu and to Śarmiṣṭhā were born three sons, Druhyu, Anudruhyu and Pūru. From Yadu came the dynasty of Yādavas and from Pūru came the dynasty of Pauravas. Kausalyā was the wife of Pūru and her son was Janamejaya. Pūru conducted three Aśvamedhas and secured the title of Viśvajita (conqueror of the world) and then accepted the ascetic life and went to the forests. Janamejaya married Anantā alias Mādhavī and got a son named Prācinvē. Because he conquered all the land extending to the eastern horizon he got the name Prācinvē. Prācinvē married a yādava girl of name Aśmakī and got a son named Saniyāti. (Ślokas 6 to 13, Chapter 95, Ādi Parva, M.B.).