

MAHĀBHĀRATA — CULTURAL INDEX

1.1 Names of Serpents, Birds, Animals etc.

Akarkara m. : A mythical serpent.

Son of Kadrū, listed among her sons by Sūta at the request of Śaunaka 1. 31. 15, 2.

Akūpāra m. : A mythical king of tortoises, living in the lake Indradyumna (*saras*) 3. 191. 9, 14.

A. Long-lived : Of fabulous age, he recognized king Indradyumna whom even Mārkaṇḍeya (sage), Prākāraṅga (owl), and Nāḍijaṅgha (crane) could not; king Indradyumna, in bygone days, had placed a thousand times Akūpāra first (*upahita-pūrvah*) while establishing the fire altars (*agniciti*) 3. 191. 14-18; [for the use of tortoise in Agnicayana cf. Tait. Sam. 5. 2. 8. 4-5; ĀpŚrS. 16. 13. 10; 16 25. 1.]. B. Myth : Requested by gods and demons to support mountain Mandara at the time of churning the ocean; Akūpāra agreed, whereupon Indra with his tool fixed the top of mountain Mandara on his back (*kūrmeṅ tu tathetyuktvā pr̥sthāṁ asya samarpitam / tasya śailasya cāgraṁ vai yantrenendro 'bhyapīḍayut*) 1. 16. 10-11.

Agratejas m. : A mythical serpent.

He, and other serpents, received the white snake issuing from the mouth of Balarāma and entering the ocean 16. 5. 15, 12.

[Agratejas, name of an independent serpent or an epithet of Śitikaṅṭha ?]

Āṅgada m. : A monkey-chief, son of Vālin 3. 266. 27; 3. 272. 17.

A. Qualities : Wise (*prājña*- 3. 267. 54), eloquent (*vāgmī* 3. 268. 9), and lustrous (*tejasvī* 3. 268. 22). B. Functions : Sent with Hanūmant and others to the south in search of Sītā; on their way back, rested in the Madhuvana of Vālin (3. 266. 27); he, along with other monkey-chiefs, protected Rāma's army of monkeys on their way to Lankā 3.267.19; after crossing the ocean Rāma sent him as his envoy (*dautyena*) to Rāvaṇa 3. 267. 54; reaching the gate of Lankā he informed Rāvaṇa of his arrival (3. 268. 7), and then conveyed Rāma's message (10-16) to Rāvaṇa; when four Rākṣasas tried to capture him by holding him at his four limbs, he jumped up with them in the sky to reach a terrace; on his return, honoured by Rāma 3. 268. 19, 22. C. Part in war : Helped Lakṣmaṇa in his fight against Indrajit; he struck Indrajit with a tree on his head; Indrajit wanted to hit Āṅgada on his chest with a missile (*prāsa*) but it was cut off by Lakṣmaṇa; Indrajit struck him on his left side with *gadā*; enraged, Āṅgada hurled the trunk of a Śāla tree to kill Indrajit, but it struck his chariot and destroyed it together with horses and charioteer 3. 272. 14-18; he was among the monkey-chiefs who surrounded Rāma and Lakṣmaṇa when they lay on the ground bound by the arrows of Indrajit