

AGNIKETU. A demon (Rākṣasa) who was a close friend and supporter of Rāvaṇa. Rāma killed him in the course of his battle with Rāvaṇa.

AGNIKUMĀRA. An epithet of Lord Subrahmanya.

AGNILOKA. One of the deva-lokas situated on the summit of Mount Mahāmēru. There are a few other deva-lokas on the same mountain. They are ; Indra-loka, Yamaloka, Śivaloka or Kailāsa, Satyaloka and Vaiṅkunṭha. (Devī Bhāgavata).

AGNIMĀN. Name of one Agni.

AGNIMITRA. The hero of Kālidāsa's play, Mālavikāgnimitra. He was a King of the Śuṅga dynasty and the son of Puṣyamitra. Kālidāsa's play deals with the marriage of Mālavikā and Agnimitra.

AGNIMUKHA. An Asura.

1. *Genealogy.* He was descended from Viṣṇu in this order: Viṣṇu - Brahmā - Marīci - Kaśyapa - Śūrapadma - Agnimukha.

2. *Birth.* Śūrapadma married Maya's daughter and Agnimukha was born as their son. In the battle between the devas and asuras, the latter were defeated and one of them sought shelter in Pātāla (the lower world). Kaśyapa married his daughter, Surasā. They had six children ; they were : Śūrapadma, Śiṅhika, Śiṅhivakra, Tārakāsura, Gomukha, and Ajāmukhī. Śūrapadma married Maya's daughter, Agnimukha was one of their four sons, the other three being Bhānugopa, Vajrabāhu and Hiranya. (Skanda Purāṇa, Āsurakāṇḍa). In the Skanda Purāṇa there is a vivid description of the valiant way in which Agnimukha fought in the battle between the devas and asuras.

AGNIPA. Son of a Brahmin named Vedanidhi. Once five gandharva maidens named Pramodini, Susilā, Susvarā, Sutārā and Candrikā fell in love with him and requested him to marry them. Being a strict Brahmacārin Agnipa was offended by this request and so he cursed them and turned them into fiends. Vedanidhi pitied them and sought the advice of sage Lomaśa as to how those unfortunate maidens could be redeemed from the curse. According to Lomaśa's advice the five maidens bathed in the holy lake of Prayāgatīrtha and regained their original forms. Then obeying the instructions of sage Lomaśa Agnipa married all these five gandharva maidens. (Chapters 128 and 129, Uttarakhaṇḍa, Padma Purāṇa).

AGNIPRAVEŚA(M). Entering fire. In the Yuddha-kāṇḍa of the Rāmāyaṇa, Vālmīki has described Sitā's entering and standing in fire (Agnipraveśam) as a test of her purity. Though Rāma recovered Sitā from Rāvaṇa, he wanted to accept her as his wife only after her purity had been tested and proved. So he decided to test her by fire (Agniprīkṣaṇa). Sitā shed tears at the thought that her husband doubted her chastity. Lakṣmaṇa, at Rāma's bidding, made a pyre. Sitā jumped into it after praying to the gods. She remained unscorched by the fire and Rāma gladly received her once more as his wife.

AGNIPURA(M). A sacred place (Puṣya tīrtha) in Indore on the banks of the river Narmadā. Many scholars identify this with the place Maheśvaram. (Śloka 43, Chapter 15, Anuśāsana Parva, M.B.).

AGNIPURĀṆA(M).

1) *General information.* This is one of the eighteen Purāṇas ascribed to Vyāsa. It is believed that this Purāṇa was originally given orally (as advice) by Agni-

deva to many sages, devas and Sage Vasiṣṭha. It is a vast comprehensive work dealing with every subject of importance. To give a copy of this book to a good Brahmin on the Full Moon day in the month of Mārga Śirṣa is supposed to be a highly virtuous and meritorious deed.

2) *Contents.* This large Purāṇa consists of about 420 chapters. It deals in detail with the following subjects: The Daśāvātāras of Mahāviṣṇu ; Rāmāyaṇa ; Mahābhārata; rules and injunctions relating to the worship of various gods (devapūjāvidhis) ; installation of idols in temples (devatāpratiṣṭhā) ; Svapṇamantras ; astrology ; architecture and sculpture ; Āyurveda ; Viśvavidya (treatment of poisons from Snakebite etc.) ; the principles of the drama (Nāṭaka) and other allied arts ; figures of speech and all alamkāras in general ; and physiology of the human body. All these subjects are treated in a detailed and scientific manner.

AGNIPŪRṆA. A King of the Solar dynasty (Sūryavāṃśa).

1) *Genealogy.* Agnipūrṇa was descended from Viṣṇu in the following order : Brahmā - Marīci - Kaśyapa - Vivasvān - Vaivasvatamanu - Ikṣvāku - Vikukṣi - Śaśāda - Purāñjaya - Kakutstha - Anenas - Pṛthulāśvan - Prasenajit - Yuvanāśvan - Māndhātā - Purukutsa - Trasadasyu - Anarāya - Aryaśvā - Vasumanas - Sutanvā - Traiyāruṇa - Satyavrata - Triśaṅku - Hariścandra - Rohitāśva - Harita - Cuñcu - Sudeva - Bharuka - Bāhuka - Sagara - Asamañjas - Anūmān - Dilipa - Bhagīratha - Śrutanāda - Sindhudvīpa - Ayutāyus - Rūparṇa - Sarvakāma - Sudāsana - Mitra - sakha - Kalmāṣapāda - Acmaka - Mūlaka - Khaṭvāṅga - Dīrghabāhu - Raghu - Aja - Daśaratha - Śrī Rāma - Kuśa - Aditi - Niśadha - Nabhas - Puṇḍarika - Kṣemadhanvā - Devānīka - Rkṣa - Pāriyātra - Bala - Vindorala - Vajranābha - Khagaṇa - Vidhṛti - Hiranyanābha - Puṣya - Dhruva - Sudarśana - Agnipūrṇa. Agnipūrṇa had two descendants - Sighra and Maru and with them the Sūryavāṃśa came to an end.

AGNISAMBHAVA. A King of the Solar dynasty.

Genealogy. Viṣṇu - Brahmā - Marīci - Kaśyapa - Vivasvān - Vaivasvatamanu - Ikṣvāku - Nūni - Janaka - Nandivār - dhana - Suketu - Devarāta - Brhaddhṛta - Mahāvīra - Dhṛti - Ketu - Haryaśvā - Maru - Pratisvaka - Kraturatha - Deva - mīḍha - Vidhṛta - Mahādṛti - Kṛtīrāta - Mahāromā - Svama - rontaprastharoma - Śradhvaja - Kurudhvaja - Dharmad - hvaja - Kṛtadhvaja - Bhānūmān - Śakradymna - Śuci - Vanadhvaja - Ūrjjaketu - Aja - Kurujit - Ariṣṭanemi - Kṛtāyus - Śupārśvaka - Citraratha - Kṣemāpi - Homaratha - Satyaratha - Gurumandana - Upagupta - Agnisambhava. There are no other references to this King of the Solar dynasty in the Purāṇas.

AGNIŚARMA. (See the word VIDYUDDYOTA).

AGNIŚIKHA. Father of Vararuci. He is also known by the name Somadatta. (Kathāsaritāgāra - Kathāpiṭha - lambaka - Tārāṅga I. See also the word GUṆAVARA).

AGNIŚIRATĪRTHA. A holy place on the plains of the river, Yamunā. Arjuna's brother, Sahadeva, performed a yāga at this place. (M.B., Vana Parva, Chapter 90).

AGNIṢOMA. A deity born of the union of two devas, Agnideva and Somadeva. He is one of the devas who receive the havis (oblations) poured into the sacrificial fire in a homa.

AGNIṢOMA(S). Agni and Soma. Agni had two sons by his third wife Bhānu (also called Niśā). They were