

and the physician spent six months in the interior of the earth. After that the physician, after a search, found a man who exactly resembled the King and brought him to the interior of the earth. After two more months, the physician murdered the King and came out with the new man. The people welcomed him with honour as the King who was cured of his wrinkles. This man was Ajara. After some time, the physician approached Ajara for his reward. Ajara said: "It is by my Karma-phala (consequence of my actions in my previous birth) that I have become King. In my previous birth I renounced my body after doing penance. According to the boon which God gave me on that occasion, I have become King in my present birth". The physician returned empty-handed. (Kathāsaritsāgarā, Ratnaprabhā-lāmbaka, 6th Taraṅga).

**AJAVINDU.** He was a King, born in the dynasty of the Suvīras. (M.B., Udyoga Parva, Chapter 74, Verse 14).

**AJEYA.** He was a King in ancient Bhārata. Ajeya's name is found among the names of the Kings mentioned by Sañjaya to Dhṛtarāṣṭra. All these Kings were mighty and generous rulers who were the recipients of divine arrows. (M.B., Ādi Parva, Chapter 1, Verse 234).

**AJIGARTA (RCĪKA).** He was a greedy Brahmin. (See RCĪKA I)

King Hariścandra who was distressed by having no children, propitiated god Varuṇa. Varuṇa blessed him saying that a son would be born to him. But the condition was that the child should be sacrificed to Varuṇa. When the child was born, Hariścandra did not like to sacrifice the boy. The sage Viśvāmitra suggested that instead of sacrificing his own son it would be enough if he bought another boy and sacrificed him. Accordingly, Hariścandra sent his minister to find out and purchase a Brahmin boy for the sacrifice. At that time there lived in Ayodhyā a greedy Brahmin named Ajigarta. He had three sons. In the course of his search, the minister came across this needy Brahmin and asked him whether he was willing to sell one of his three sons. He continued: "Why should you be in this wretched state of poverty and misery? Sell one of your sons and you will get 100 cows as the price". The minister's words and the price offered for the son made a deep impression on the Brahmin's mind. He thought: "It is impossible for me to earn 100 cows. Even if it were possible how long would it take? If I sell him I shall get hundred cows at once. What a lucky chance! The loss of a son is nothing." So thinking, he sold his son Sunaśśepha. (For the rest of the story, see the word "Sunaśśepha". Devī Bhāgavata, Skandhas 7, 8).

**AJINA.** 1) *Genealogy* From Viṣṇu, Brahmā, Marīci, Kaśyapa, Vairasvata, Uttānapāda, Dhruva, Śṛṣṭi, Ripu, Cākṣuṣa, Manu, Uru, Aṅga, Vena, Pṛthu, Antardhāna, Havirdhāna and Ajina.

2) *Birth.* Pṛthu had two sons, Antardhāna and Vādi. Antardhāna had a son, Havirdhāna, by Śikhaṇḍinī. Dhīṣaṇ, who was born in the Agnikula became Havirdhāna's wife. Six sons were born to them, Prācīnabarhis, Śukra, Gaya, Kṛṣṇa, Vraja and Ajina. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Part I, Chapter 14).

**AJISĀKA.** (See the word (ŚAKAVARṢA).

**AJODARA.** There was an individual called Ajodara in Skanda's army. (M.B., Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 60).

**AKAMPANA.** (A mighty warrior among the demons).

1) *Genealogy.* Descended from Viṣṇu in the following

order: Viṣṇu - Brahmā - Heti - Vidyukeśa - Sukeśa Sumāli-Akampana.

2) *Other details.* Sumāli married Ketumatī and got fourteen children. They were 1) Prahasta 2) Akampana 3) Vikaṭa 4) Kālakāmukha 5) Dhūmrākṣa 6) Daṇḍa 7) Supārśvā 8) Sārnhrāda 9) Prākvāta 10) Bhīāsakarṇa 11) Vekā 12) Puṣpotkāṭā 13) Kaikasī and 14) Kumbhīnadī. Of these the last four are daughters. Prahasta was one of the ministers of Rāvaṇa. The thirteenth child Kaikasī was married to Viśravas, son of Pulastya. Viśravas got three sons and a daughter. They were Rāvaṇa, Kumbhakarṇa and Vibhīṣaṇa and Sūrpaṇakhā. It was Akampana who informed Rāvaṇa that Rāma and Lakṣmaṇa had killed his three allies, Khara, Dūṣaṇa and Trīśiras (Araṇya Kāṇḍa, Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa).

3) *Death.* Akampana fought a fierce battle with Hanūmān and in the end Hanūmān plucked a big tree and hit Akampana on the head with it and killed him. (Sarga 56, Yuddha Kāṇḍa of Rāmāyaṇa)

**AKAMPANA II.** He was a king who lived in the Kṛta-yuga. He had a son named Hari who was a fierce fighter. He was killed in a battle and the King became much depressed. Nārada consoled him with other stories and Vyāsa told this story to Dharmaputra when he found the latter greatly dejected and gloomy after the great battle was over. (Chapter 52, Droṇa Parva of M.B. also makes mention of Akampana).

**AKARKKARA.** A serpent, son of Kadru.

1) *Genealogy.* Descended from Viṣṇu in this order : Brahmā-Marīci-Kaśyapa-Akarkkara.

2) *Birth.* Kaśyapa married the eight daughters of Dakṣa named Aditi, Diti, Danu, Kālikā, Tāmrā, Krodhavaśā, Manu and Analā. Krodhavaśā got ten sons. One of them is Kadru. Ananta and Akarkkara were born of Kadru. (Śloka 16, Chapter 35, Ādi Parva, M.B.).

**AKRODHA.** A King of the Pūru dynasty. He was born to King 'Ayutanāyī' and his Queen, Kāmā. Kāmā, mother of Akrodha, was the daughter of Pṛthuśravā. (Śloka 21, Chapter 95, Ādi Parva, M.B.).

**AKṚTAŚRAMA.** He is one of the few sannyāsins who have gone to heaven after completing the fourth āśrama of life namely, Sannyāsa. The Kaurava-Pāṇḍava battle was over. As the eldest, Dharmaputra performed obsequies to all those of his kith and kin dead in the war. He was then met by many sages including Vyāsa and Nārada who comforted him in his bereavement. When Dharmaputra later met Bhīṣma the latter among many other stories told him the story of Akṛtaśrama also. (Śloka 17, Chapter 244, Śānti Parva, M.B.).

**AKṚTAVRAṆA.**

1) *General information.* Akṛtavraṇa was a great sage of erudition and was a disciple of Paraśurāma. He is extolled in the Purāṇas and it is said that Sūta who recited first the story of Mahābhārata to an assembly of sages in the forest of Naimiṣa was a disciple of Akṛtavraṇa. (Skandha 12 of Bhāgavata).

2) *How he became a disciple of Paraśurāma.* Paraśurāma was returning after obtaining arrows from Lord Śiva after pleasing him by fierce penance. He was walking briskly through the dense forests anxious to be at the side of his preceptors to get their blessings. As he passed a great cave he heard a moan and on getting to the site of the sound found a brahmin boy being attacked by a tiger. The tiger immediately fell dead by an arrow from