

AMŚA. A sage of the family of Marīci.

1) *Genealogy*. He was descended from Viṣṇu through Brahmā, Marīci and Kaśyapa.

2) *Birth*. Marīci was one of the six sons, all ṛṣis, of Brahmā. These six sons, born parthogenetically of Brahmā, were : Marīci, Aṅgiras, Atri, Pulastya, Pulaha and Kratu. Marīci had a son named Kaśyapa. Kaśyapa married the thirteen daughters of Dakṣa. The eldest of them, Aditi, gave birth to twelve sons Dhātā, Aryaman, Mitra, Śakra, Varuṇa, Amśa, Bhaga, Vivasvān, Pūṣan, Sāvītā, Tvaṣṭā and Viṣṇu. Amśa is one of these twelve sons who have been called the twelve Ādityas. (See Chapter 65 of Ādi Parva of the Mahābhārata).

3) *Events*. The Mahābhārata says (Śloka 66, Chapter 123) that Amśa was present at the time of Arjuna's birth when several devas had come there to see the infant. In Śloka 34, Chapter 45 of Śalya Parva it is said that Amśa was present on the occasion of the Abhiṣeka of Skandadeva. Amśa is said to have presented to Skandadeva five good warriors : Parigha, Vaṭa, Bhīma, Dahana and Dahati.

AMŚAPĀYA. Name of a priest (Rtvik) qualified to officiate at a sacrifice. This priest officiated at the sacrifice (yajña) performed by Brahmā at Puṣkarakṣetra. (See Chapter 34 of Padma Purāṇa).

AMŚĀVATĀRA. The incarnation of God on earth is called avatāra. When the incarnation is only partial, that is, when only some of the divine elements incarnate, it is called amśāvātāra (Amśa=part). Chapters 54 to 64 of Ādi Parva of the Mahābhārata give us a list of the gods who have incarnated partially. The following list of devas and their amśāvātāras is based upon the account given in the fourth Skandha of Śrī Mahādevī Bhāgavata.

Name of the god	Name of the amśāvātāra
1. Kaśyapa	Vasudeva
2. Ādiṣeṣa	Balabhadra
3. Nārāyaṇarṣi	Śrī Kṛṣṇa
4. Yamadharmā	Yudhiṣṭhira
5. Aśvinīdevas	Nakula and Sahadeva
6. Dharma	Vidura
7. Śiva	Aśvatthāmā
8. Gandharvarāja	Devaka
9. Aṣṭavasū	Bhīṣma
10. Marudgaṇa	Kṛpa ; Kṛtavarmā
11. Aditi	Devakī
12. Nararṣi	Arjuna
13. Vāyu	Bhīmasena
14. Sūrya	Karṇa
15. Bṛhaspati	Droṇa
16. Varuṇa	Santanu
17. Marut	Virāṭa
18. Hamśa	Dhṛtarāṣṭra
19. Dvāpara	Śakuni
20. Pāvaka	Dhṛṣṭadyumna
21. Kali	Duryodhana
22. Rākṣasa	Śikhaṇḍī
23. Varuṇa	Drupada
24. Viśvedevas	Sons of Pāñcālī
25. Dhṛti	Māndrī
26. Vipracitti	Jarāsandha
27. Hayagrīva	Keśi
28. Bāṣkala	Bhagadatta
29. Lamba	Pralamba
30. Sanatkumāra	Pradyumna

Name of the god	Name of the amśāvātāra
31. Lakṣmī	Pāñcālī
32. Siddhi	Kuntī
33. Mati	Gāndhārī
34. Jaya	Hiraṇyākṣa
35. Vijaya	Hiraṇyakaśipu
36. Hiraṇyākṣa	Rāvaṇa
37. Hiraṇyakaśipu	Kumbhakarṇa
38. Rāvaṇa	Śiṣupāla
39. Kumbhakarṇa	Daṇḍavakra
40. Prahlāda	Śalya
41. Kālanemi	Kaṁsa
42. Anuhlāda	Dhṛṣṭaketu
43. Khara	Dhenuka.

(For more details see under the word, AVATĀRA).

AMŚUDHANAPATTANA. Name of an ancient town in North India. Bharata passed through this town while going to Ayodhyā from Kekaya after Daśaratha's death. Vālmiki has described this town in the Rāmāyaṇa in this context.

AMŚUMĀN. Name of a King belonging to the Solar dynasty (Sūrya Vamśa).

1) *Genealogy*. Amśumān was descended from Viṣṇu through Brahmā-Marīci-Kaśyapa-Vivasvān-Vaivasvata-manu-Ikṣvāku-Vikukṣi-Śaśāda-Purañjaya - Kakutṣtha - Anenas-Prthulāśva-Prasenajit - Yuvanāśva - Māndhātā-Purukutsa-Trasadasyu-Anarāya - Aryaśvan - Vasumanas-Sudhanvā-Traiyyāruṇa-Satyavrata-Triśaṅku-Hariścandra-Rohitāśva - Harita - Cuṅcu - Sudeva - Bharuka-Bāhuka-Sagara-Asamañjas-Amśumān.

2) *Birth*. Sagara, a king of the Sūrya vamśa, (mentioned above) had two wives, Sumati (Vaidarbhī) and Keśinī (Saibā) by name. Keśinī gave birth to a son named Asamañjas. Amśumān was the son of Asamañjas and the father of the famous Bhagīratha. (See under the title, BHAGĪRATHA).

3) *Some other details*. Amśumān was one of the Kings who attended the Svayamvara of Pāñcālī. (Vide Śloka 11, Chapter 185 of Ādi Parva of the Mahābhārata).

AMŚUMĀN II. There is a reference to one Amśumān in the course of the description of the Viśvedevas.

AMŚUMĀN III. King of Bhoja who was killed by Droṇa in the war at Kurukṣetra (Vide Śloka 14, Chapter 6 of Karṇa Parva).

AMŚUMATI. The daughter of the Gandharva King named Dramila. Her story is narrated in the Śiva Purāṇa to illustrate the benefits of performing the Pradoṣa-Vrata. Sūta expatiates on the importance and advantages of Pradoṣa-Vrata to a number of sages in Naimiśārāya. King Satyaratha was a scrupulous observer of Pradoṣa-Vrata. Unfortunately he defaulted in his observance of the Vrata owing to unavoidable circumstances and, after his death, was born again as the King of Vidarbha. He was killed in a battle by the King of Sālva and his wife, pregnant at that time, fled to a forest. She gave birth to a son on the bank of a river. Then, when she stepped into the river to drink some water, she was carried away by a crocodile. Presently a Brahmin woman named Uṣā happened to pass that way with her son named Śucivrata. Seeing a newborn infant there, that Brahmin woman took him, gave him the name, Dharmagupta and brought him up as her own son. According to the advice of a pious Brahmin named Śāṇḍilya, both Śucivrata and Dharmagupta