

shaping your palm neither your little finger nor your thumb should touch the other fingers. At the time of ācamana you should support your right hand by your left hand. Otherwise the water will turn impure."

ĀCĀRAMARYĀDĀS. See under Pūjāvīdhī.

ĀḌĀMBARA. One of the five Pārśadas whom Brahmā gave to Skandadeva. Brahmā gave Kunda, Kusuma, Kumuda, Damba and Āḍambara.

ĀḌĪ. A mighty son of the demon, Andhakāsura. He did penance to please Brahmā and obtained from him a boon to seek vengeance on Śiva who had murdered his father. The boon was that ĀḌī would die only when he left his present form and took another form. After obtaining the boon ĀḌī went to Kailāsa and outwitting the sentries entered the abode of Śiva in the shape of a serpent. After that he disguised himself as Pārvatī and went near Śiva. But Śiva knew the trick and killed him. (Śrṣṭi Khaṇḍa of Padma Purāṇa).

ĀḌĪBAKA. A combat without serving any useful purpose and conducted out of sheer spite between two people to the surprise of others. The fight between Vasiṣṭha and Viśvāmītra was of this kind. (Skandha 6 of Devī Bhāgavata).

ĀḌIGADĀDHARA. It was with the bones of an asura (demon) named Gada that Mahāviṣṇu made the first gadā (mace). By that mace Viṣṇu killed Heti and other asuras of that lot and got the name ĀḌigadādhara (He who first handled the mace). (See under Gadā).

ĀḌIKŪRMA. The mountain of Mandara which was used as a churn-stick to churn the great milky ocean, Kṣīrābdhi went down the ocean. Then Mahāviṣṇu took the shape of a tortoise to lift it up and this first tortoise was called ĀḌikūrma. (Śloka 12, Chapter 18, Ādi Parva, M.B.).

ĀḌIPARVA. One of the parvas of the epic Mahābhārata. It is the first parva. (See under Bhārata).

ĀḌIPARVATA. The place of abode of Śiva in the Himālayas. (Śloka 22, Chapter 327, Śānti Parva, M.B.).

ĀḌIRĀJA. The son of Kuru who was a king of the Pūru dynasty. (See under Pūru).

ĀḌIŚĪSIRA. One of the disciples of Śākalya. Vyāsa made the Vedas and taught his son Śākalya a portion of it. Śākalya divided his portion into five different and equal divisions and taught each of his five disciples, Vātsyāyana, Maudgalya, Śāli, ĀḌiśīsira and Gokhali a division. (Skandha 12, Bhāgavata).

ĀḌIṢṬĪ. The disciple who was ordained by his preceptor to observe celibacy for a stipulated number of years.

ĀḌITYA. The twelve sons born to the sage Kaśyapa of his wife Aditi are known as the twelve ĀḌityas. They are the following : Dhātā, Mitra, Aryamā, Rudra, Varuṇa, Sūrya, Bhaga, Vivasvān, Pūṣā, Savitā, Tvaṣṭā and Viṣṇu. Besides these Aditi had twentyone children including Indra. All of them are called ĀḌityas meaning children of Aditi. From the thirtythree sons of Aditi were born the thirtythree crores of devatās. Of these the eldest is Indra and the youngest, Vāmana. (Śloka 36, Chapter 66, Ādi Parva, M.B.). (There is corroboration for this in Śloka 14, Sarga 14, Araṇya Kāṇḍa, Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa).

Sirdar K.M. Panikar in his preface to the book "Rgveda-samhitā" writes thus about ĀḌityas : "Generally we think of Sūrya (the Sun) when we hear the word ĀḌitya. But there are many different ĀḌityas in Rgveda, chief of them is Varuṇa. Though Savitā, Pūṣā

and Mitra are all synonyms of Sūrya in Rgveda they are all separate devas. There is no end to the varieties of ĀḌityas and their prominence in the Vedas. Summarising we can say thus. The familiar devas like Indra, Agni, Varuṇa and Sūrya are not found in the same form or power as we are taught to believe. Those whom we have lowered down to the posts of the eight sentries of the universe are very prominent devatās in the Vedas. Many ĀḌityas have merged in Sūrya and winds in the god of Vāyu. Rudra has merged in Śiva. Who will believe that the all-powerful Deva of the Rgveda and the vainglorious Indra who lives in fear of men doing penance are one and the same person?"

ĀḌITYAHRDAYA. A mantra (incantation) of great power to destroy all enemies. During the combat with Rāvaṇa at one time Rāma fell exhausted in the battlefield. Seeing this the sage Agastya rushed to him and taught him this mantra. (Sarga 107, Yuddha Kāṇḍa, Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa).

ĀḌITYAKETU. One of the sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. Bhīma sena killed him in the great battle of Kurukṣetra. (Śloka 102, Chapter 67, Ādi Parva and Śloka 28, Chapter 88, Bhīṣma Parva, M.B.).

ĀḌITYASENA. A very brave King. Stories about this King are found in Kathāsaritsāgara. (Taraṅga 4, Kathāpīṭhalambaka).

ĀḌITYĀTĪRTHA. An ancient holy place on the banks of the river, Sarasvatī. (Śloka 17, Chapter 99, Śalya Parva, M.B.).

ĀḌITYAVARṆA. A king who always ordered without thinking and repented later. The book Kathāsaritsāgara tells the story of this King in the fifth taraṅga of its part, Kathāpīṭhalambaka.

ĀḌYAKĀṬHA. A sage of old. He attended the sacrifice conducted by the King Uparicara. (Śloka 9, Chapter 336, Śānti Parva, M.B.).

ĀGNEYAPURĀṆA. See under Agnipurāṇa.

ĀGNEYĀSTRA. A powerful weapon or missile. One night Arjuna fought against a gandharva, Aṅgāraparṇa, on the banks of the river Ganges. Arjuna then described to him how he came into possession of this missile. This powerful missile was given first to Bhāradvāja by Bṛhaspati and Bhāradvāja gave it to Agniveśya who in turn gave it to Droṇa and the latter gave it to Arjuna, his most favourite disciple. (Ślokas 29-30, Chapter 170, Ādi Parva, M.B.).

ĀGNEYĪ. Wife of Kuru, son of Manu. Śambhu wife of Dhruva gave birth to two sons, Śiṣṭi and Bhavya. Succhāyā wife of Śiṣṭi gave birth to five sinless sons Ripu, Ripuñjaya, Vipra, Vṛkala and Vṛkatejas. Cākṣuṣa was born of Bṛhatī, wife of Ripu. Manu was born to Cākṣuṣa of his wife Puṣkarīṇī, daughter of the great Vīraṇaprajāpati. Puṣkarīṇī hailed from the dynasty of Marutta. To Manu were born of Naḍvalā ten sons, Kuru, Puru, Śatadyumna, Tapasvī, Satyavān, Śuci, Agniṣṭoma, Atirātra, Sudyumna, and Abhimanyu. Of these, Kuru got of his wife Āgneyī six sons: Aṅga, Sumanas, Khyāti, Kratu, Aṅgiras and Śibi. Vena was born to Aṅga of his wife Sunīthā. (Chapter 13, Amṣam 1, Viṣṇu Purāṇa).

ĀGNIḌHRA. See Agnidadhra.

ĀGNIVEŚYA (AGNIVEŚA). An ancient sage who received an armour and the sacred mantras associated with it from Bṛhaspati. He was the Ācārya of Dhanurveda and