

enquired about the incident. On hearing the story from the woman Śyāmabālā got instructions regarding that Puṇyavrata from the old woman and started observing it. Within four weeks she got married and went to her husband's house. After Śyāmabālā's departure from the palace the wealth of the King began to wane and they became so poor that at the request of the queen the King Bhadrāśravā went to his daughter to ask for help. The daughter gave his father a block of solid gold dropped in a paper. But on his return to the palace when he opened the bundle he found there a block of charcoal instead of gold. On seeing the mishap the king burst into a cry.

Suraticandrikā then went to her daughter and was well received and attended to. During her stay there the Puṇyavrata day of the month came and the daughter tried her best to make her mother also observe the same. But the poverty-stricken queen broke the fast without her daughter's knowledge by eating what remained in the dishes of the children. But the next month Śyāmabālā compelled her mother to observe the fast strictly and so Suraticandrikā took the Vrata successfully. A few days after that Suraticandrikā returned home and to her amazement found everything in plenty there once more. (Chapter 11, Bhaga 2, Padma Purāṇa).

BHADRĀŚREṆYA. A Hehaya King who was ruling a state with Māhiṣmatī as capital. He had fought many wars with Divodāsa, king of Kāśī. (See under Divodāsa).

BHADRĀŚVA I. A king of Pūruvaṃśa. He was the son of Rahovādi. Bhadrāśvā had ten sons: Rkṣeyu, Kṛṣeyu, Sannateyu, Ghrṭeyu, Citeyu, Sthaṇḍileyu, Dharmeyu, Sammiteyu, Kṛṭeyu and Matināra. (Chapter 278, Agni Purāṇa).

Once Agastya went and stayed for seven days in the palace of Bhadrāśva and his wife Kāntimatī. Everyday Agastya used to speak in glowing terms about Kāntimatī and asked about the reason for it he replied: "In her previous birth Kāntimatī was a servant girl in a wealthy house. The master of the house once entrusted her with the task of seeing that none of the temple lights went out on the night of Dvādaśī in the month of Tulā (Āśvina—October). She did her duty so willingly and sincerely that she was born as a queen and you a King". Then Agastya gave them instructions about that Vrata which both Bhadrāśva and Kāntimatī observed sincerely, receiving as a result benediction from Viṣṇu. (Vāyu Purāṇa).

BHADRĀŚVA II. Agnīdhra, son of Priyavrata and grandson of Manu, got nine sons of his wife Pūrvacitti, a celestial maiden. One of the sons was Bhadrāśva. His brothers were Nābhi, Kimpuruṣa, Hari, Ilāvṛta, Ramyaka, Hiraṇmaya, Kuru and Ketumāla. The country ruled by Bhadrāśva was called Bhadrāśva lying to the east of the mountain Gandhamādana. (Pañcama Skandha, Bhāgavata).

BHADRĀŚVA. An island near the mountain of Meru. Dharmaputra was ruling this land and Sañjaya once described this land to Dhṛtarāṣṭra. (Chapter 14, Śānti Parva and Chapter 7, Bhīṣma Parva).

BHADRATANU. An immoral brahmin. On the advice of Danta he became a devotee of Viṣṇu and attained salvation. (Padma Purāṇa, Kriya, Chapter 17).

BHADRATUNGA. A sacred place; a dip in the holy

waters of this place would entitle one to Brahmaloaka. (Vana Parva, Chapter 82, Verse 80).

BHADRAVAṬA. The abode of Pārvatī and Parameśvara. The glory of it is described in Chapter 82, Vana Parva, M.B.

BHADRĀYU. A king who was a devotee of Śiva. He was a leper and in his life he suffered much, even the pangs of death. His wife was the dutiful and good natured lady, Kīrtimālīnī.

On the sixteenth birthday of Bhadrāyu Śiva appeared before him in the name of Rṣabha and blessed him after instructing him on the precepts of Rājadharmā. He further gave him a dagger and a conch as weapons and twelve thousand elephants. With the might of all these, Bhadrāyu became unconquerable. (Śiva Purāṇa, Śatarudrasaṃhitā).

One day, while Bhadrāyu was ruling the country, Śiva came in the guise of a tiger and carried away the wife of a brahmin. Bhadrāyu, a firm protector of his subjects gave his own wife to the brahmin and prepared himself to give up his life in fire. Śiva greatly pleased at this selfless act of Bhadrāyu befitting a true King appeared before him and blessed him and gave back the brahmin his wife.

Bhadrāyu in his previous birth was a King called Mandara and Kīrtimālīnī in her previous birth was Piṅgalā, queen of Mandara. (Skanda Purāṇa, 3.3.12; 9.14).

BHAGA I.

1) *General.* One of the twelve Ādityas born as sons of Kaśyapa prajāpati by his wife, Aditi. Viṣṇu, Śakra, Aryaman, Dhātā, Tvaṣṭā, Pūṣā, Vivasvān, Savitā, Mitra, Varuṇa, Amśu and Bhaga—these are the Dvādaśādityas, and they were Devas famous as Tuṣitas in the last Cākṣuṣamanvāntara.

2) *Other information.* (1) Bhaga married Siddhi, and the couple begot three sons called Mahiman, Vibhu and Prabhu and three daughters called Suvratā, Varārohā, and Āśis.

(2) Bhaga participated in the birthday celebrations of Arjuna. (M.B., Ādi Parva, Chapter 122, Verse 66).

(3) At the time of Khāṇḍavadāha (burning of the Khāṇḍava forest) Bhaga, as a supporter of Indra, who was fighting Arjuna and Śrī Kṛṣṇa, sprang upon the enemies with sword in hand. (M.B., Ādi Parva, Chapter 236, Verse 36).

(4) Bhaga shines forth in Indra's assembly. (M.B., Sabhā Parva, Chapter 7, Verse 22).

(5) Bhaga was also present at the installation of Subrahmaṇya as commander of the fighting forces. (M.B., Śalya Parva, Chapter 45).

(6) After Devayuga (Deva age), the Devas assembled together and decided upon the share of yajñas due to each of them, and in thus fixing shares they left out Rudra. Enraged at this neglect Rudra made a bow and fought against the Devas. During the fight Rudra, with the point of his bow, extracted the hands of Savitā, the eyes of Bhaga and the teeth of Pūṣā. Ultimately the Devas satisfied and pleased. Rudra, who returned to Bhaga and others the eyes etc. which had been extracted. (M.B., Sautika Parva).

BHAGA II. Certain Purāṇas refer to Bhaga as one of the eleven Rudras. But, this view is not universally accepted.