

BRĤANMANAS II. A hermit. This hermit was one of the seven sons born to Aṅgiras of his wife Sumanā. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 208).

BRĤANMANTRA. See BrĤatkīrti.

BRĤANMEDAS. A king of the Yādavas. He was the son of Vapuṣmān and father of Śrīdeva. (Kūrma Purāṇa, 1 : 24 : 6 - 10).

BRĤANNALA. The name adopted by Arjuna during the concealment of the Pāṇḍavas in the Kingdom of Virāṭa. (For further information see Arjuna).

BRĤANTA I. A king. Yudhiṣṭhira performed a horse sacrifice. Arjuna was taking the sacrificial horse round, for the conquest of the North when King BrĤanta opposed him. Arjuna defeated him and brought him under subjugation. He presented Arjuna with a large quantity of precious stones. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 177).

In the battle of Mahābhārata BrĤanta fought on the side of the Pāṇḍavas, and was killed by Duśśāsana. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 4).

BRĤANTA II. A warrior on the side of the Kauravas. He was the brother of Kṣemadhūrti. BrĤanta was killed in a fight with Sātyaki. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 4).

BRĤANTĀ. One of the seven mothers of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 118, Stanza 10).

BRĤASPATI. The teacher of the devas (Gods).

1) *Birth.* The father of BrĤaspati was Aṅgiras, the son of Brahmā. Brahmā grew amorous, at the sight of some celestial maids who were present at a sacrifice performed by Rudra ; and he had seminal flow. Brahmā put the semen in fire. From that fire the devas such as Marīci, Bhṛgu, Aṅgiras and others were born. The name Aṅgiras was given because he was born out of aṅgāra (live-coal). Eight sons were born to Aṅgiras by his wife Vasudā. They were Utathya, BrĤaspati, Vayasya, Śānti, Ghora, Virūpa, Saṁvarta and Sudhanvā. All of them were sages who had attained oneness with the supreme Spirit by knowledge, and who had been free from worldly pain. Of them BrĤaspati, Utathya and Saṁvarta became famous through all the worlds. In some purāṇas Vasudā, the mother of BrĤaspati, is given the name Śraddhā also.

It is stated that BrĤaspati had a sister named Aṅgirasī. She was a follower of the Brahmā cult. She became the wife of Prabhāsa the last one of the eight Vasus.<sup>1</sup> Viśvakarmā was her son. (Bhāgavata Skandha 4, Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 66).

2) *Is BrĤaspati the son of Agni?* In some purāṇas BrĤaspati is described as the son of Agni. Its authority is given below. Aṅgiras, the father of BrĤaspati was once doing penance in his hermitage. When the fire of penance increased the brightness of the real fire decreased. Agni (fire) stood before Aṅgiras and said "Oh Lord ! your brightness surpasses mine. From this day onwards you are the real fire. So you shall be the first fire and I will be the fire of Prajāpati which is the second fire."

Because of this boon of Agni, the devas (gods), recognized Aṅgiras also as a fire-god. So in some Purāṇas BrĤaspati is mentioned as the son of Agni (fire-god). (Bhāgavata, Skandha 4).

3) *Teacher of the Devas.* The story of how BrĤaspati became the teacher of the devas, is given in the Bhāṣābhārata, Chapter 76 as shown below :

"The Suras and the asuras (the gods and the demons) became enemies from time immemorial, regarding the possession of wealth and prosperity in the three worlds. To secure victory in the battles the gods made BrĤaspati their teacher and likewise the asuras made Śukra their teacher."

The devas and asuras began to fight for prosperity and wealth. At that time the devas selected BrĤaspati and the asuras selected Śukra, as their teacher.

4) *The conjugality of BrĤaspati.* Tārā was the wife of BrĤaspati. She was very beautiful. Seeing Candra's handsome figure she doted on him. There arose several quarrels over this affair. Finally the devas intervened and Tārā was given back to BrĤaspati. Budha was born to Candra by Tārā.

The individual called Tāra in the family of the monkeys, was a son of BrĤaspati. It is mentioned in Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa, Bāla Kāṇḍa, Sarga 17, Stanza 10 as follows, which proves this fact.

"BrĤaspati begot the mighty monkey Tāra." In the R̥gveda, Maṇḍala 1, Anuvāka 19, Sūkta 126, it is mentioned that BrĤaspati had a daughter named Romaśā. When her husband teased her Romaśā said to her husband : "You please come and feel your hand on my body. Don't think that my organs are small. Though I am hairy like the goats of Gāndhāra, I have got all the organs fully grown." This is the statement in the R̥gveda. In the Uttara Rāmāyaṇa, it is stated that BrĤaspati had a Brāhmaṇa son named Kuśadhvaja, and that a daughter named Devavatī was born to Kuśadhvaja. Devavatī was born from his mouth while Kuśadhvaja was engaged in devotional recitation of the Vedas. Sītā was the rebirth of this Devavatī. It is stated in the Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Stanza 69, that Droṇa, the son of Bharadvāja, was born from a portion of BrĤaspati. Kaca was another son of BrĤaspati. For full particulars of the story how Devayānī (daughter of Śukra) hankered after Kaca, see 'Kaca'. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 219, Stanza 1, that BrĤaspati had a wife called Cāndramasī and that she gave birth to six Agnis. In Kampa Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddhakāṇḍa mention is made that BrĤaspati had a daughter named Sulekhā. Six sons and a daughter were born to Cāndramasī. The six sons were six Agnis (fires) : In sacrifices the burnt offerings and the ghee were the portions meant for the great and mighty fire Śamyu, the son of BrĤaspati. It is to satisfy this great fire which blazes with numberless pointed tongues, that in sacrifices such as Cāturmāsya, Aśvamedha etc. animals are slaughtered. The daughter of Dharma was the wife of Śamyu. The name of the wonderful being (Śamyu's wife) is Satyā. A son named Dīpti and three daughters were born to Śamyu. The son of Dīpti is Bharadvāja who is the recipient of first portion of Ghee obliterated in sacrifice. On all full-moon days offerings of sacrifices are meant for Bharata. Bharata had a son named Bhārata and a daughter named Bhārati. Bharata the Agni is said to be the son of the Agni who is Prajā-

<sup>1</sup> It is stated in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 218 that the mother of BrĤaspati had another name, Śubhā, and that BrĤaspati had six more brothers, born later, named BrĤatkīrti, BrĤatjyoti, BrĤadbrahmā, BrĤadmanā, BrĤadmantra, and BrĤadbhāsa and that Aṅgirasī had the name Bhānumati also.