

became the red onion and the white onion respectively. Some vaidika brahmins used to consider the red onion objectionable for consumption as it was evolved from blood, while the white onion was considered usable as it was evolved from amṛtam.

Rāhu and Ketu still maintain their hatred for Sūrya and Candra who had betrayed the asura, who, disguised as brahmin tried to drink the amṛta. Eclipse is the phenomenon of Rāhu and Ketu swallowing Sūrya and Candra as and when opportunity presents itself for it. But, since the throat is severed from the body, Sūrya and Candra thus swallowed get out through the throat. That is the reason why Sūrya and Candra become visible after the eclipse is over. (Kampa Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa and Bhāgavata Aṣṭama Skandha).

5) *Candra became Calf*. Once emperor Pṛthu transformed Bhūmidevī into a cow and milked from her all things and provisions. On that occasion it was Brahmā, who acted as Calf. And, following Pṛthu when the Ṛṣis milked the cow Candra served as Calf. (For details see Pṛthu).

6) *Waxing and waning of Candra, the purāṇic story regarding it*. Of the twentyseven daughters of Dakṣa whom Candra had married he loved Rohiṇī much more than the other twenty six wives, and so kept her always with him. This annoyed the twenty six wives, who complained about it to Dakṣa. Dakṣa's advice to Candra to treat all the wives on an equal footing had no effect on him. So, the twenty six neglected wives again complained to Dakṣa as follows: "We shall stay in the āśrama and serve you. Soma (Candra) does not associate with us, he will not accept your advice."

Though Dakṣa warned Candra a second time, that too had no effect on him. So the twenty six wives, for the third time, complained to Dakṣa. Dakṣa got angry at this and cursed that Candra should suffer from tuberculosis. Thus Candra was afflicted by consumption. Though Candra performed many a yajña to get cured of the fell disease, they did not produce the desired effect. Candra remaining a tubercular patient, the growth of medicinal plants stopped with the result that all living things contracted consumption. When people began becoming thinner, the devas asked Candra for an explanation, and he told them all the details. They then sought the help of Dakṣa, who gave Candra redemption from the curse by ordaining that if he dived in the Sarasvatī tirtha in the western sea he would be free from consumption for half of every month. Thenceforth Candra made it a practice to dive in the Sarasvatī tirtha and that is the reason why Candra is exempted from Kṣayaroga for fifteen days. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 35).

7) *Candra—King of stars and of medicines*. During the reign of emperor Pṛthu, he changed Bhūmidevī into a cow. Later the Ṛṣis also changed bhūmidevī into a cow and milked her. It was Candra who served as calf then. Pleased at this Brahman crowned Candra as king of the stars and medicines. (Harivaṁśa, Chapter 4, Verse 2).

8) *Other information about Candra*

(1) Candra is 11,000 sq. yojanas in area, 33,000 yojanas in circumference and a volume of 5,900 cubic yojanas. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 12).

(2) Candra presented two attendants called Maṇi and

Sumati to Subrahmaṇya (Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 32).

(3) Candra once made a discourse on the superior qualities of brahmins to Śambarasura. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 36, Verse 13, Southern Text).

(4) All welfare and prosperity accrue to him, who on full-moon day at moon-rise tenders offerings to Candra of bread in copper vessels with honey poured into it. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 36, Verse, 13, Southern Text).

(5) Candra is one of the aṣṭa-vasus. Candra had four sons, Varcas, Śiśira, Prāṇa and Ramaṇa by his wife named Manoharā. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 66, Verse 18).

(6) Abhimanyu was Candra's son, Varcas, reborn as the son of Arjuna. (See Abhimanyu).

CANDRĀ. An important river in ancient India. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Verse 29).

CANDRAGUPTA I. Second son of Rāvaṇa. Once when Śrī Rāma was King, Candragupta abducted the daughter of Sugrīva and the daughter-in-law of Vibhīṣaṇa. Hanumān released them both as ordered by Śrī Rāma. (Kampa Rāmāyaṇa Uttara Kāṇḍa; also see Sahasramukha Rāvaṇa).

CANDRAGUPTA II. A minister of Kārtavīryārjuna. Kārtavīryārjuna was once fed sumptuously by Jamadagni at his āśrama with the help of Suśilā, the devasurabhi (divine cow). Candragupta, at the instance of Kārtavīryārjuna tried to capture Suśilā by force, which disappeared immediately in the sky. Kārtavīryārjuna's servants then forcibly took away its calf. Candragupta thrashed to death Jamadagni, who tried to obstruct their action. (See Kārtavīrya, Para 9).

CANDRAHANTĀ. An asura, who was reborn as King Śunaka. (M.B., Ādi Parva, Chapter 677, Verse 37).

CANDRAHARTĀ. A son born to Kaśyapa prajāpati of Simhikā, daughter of Dakṣa. (M.B., Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, Verse 31).

CANDRAHĀSA. Son of King Sudhārmika of Kerala. The following story about him is told in Jaimini Aśvamedha Parva.

Candrahāsa, born under the star Mūlam had a sixth finger on the left foot indicative of poverty and of all other evils. And, therefore, on his birth enemies killed Sudhārmika and his wife followed him soon to the other world. The child thus left an orphan was taken to Kauṇḍalapurī by a female inmate of the palace. But unfortunately the woman died within three years of the above incident. The child, just for very existence, took to begging. After sometime some women jointly took up charge of the boy. Once he went to the house of Dhṛṣṭabuddhi, minister of Kauṇḍala where a feast was in progress. The munis present there were impressed by Candrahāsa and prophesied that he would become a King. To Dhṛṣṭabuddhi, the munis said that the child would guard his wealth. Angry and suspicious at the prophesy of the munis Dhṛṣṭabuddhi asked his men to kill the boy. They led him to the forest. On the way Candrahāsa got a Śālagrāma (a small sacred stone which represented some upadevatā) which he applied very devotedly to his face. They did not in fact kill the boy, but cut off his sixth finger on the left foot and showed it to their master.

Thus left alive in the forest by the murderers the boy was roaming about when the King of Kalinda on