

**DĀNAVA.** Dānavas are the sons born to Kaśyapa Prajāpati by his wife Danu and their descendants. (See under Danu).

**DANĀYUS.** A daughter of Dakṣaprajāpati. Kaśyapaprajāpati married Danāyus. Four sons Vikṣara, Bala, Vira and Vrata were born to her. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 65).

**DAṆḌA I.** A king who was the son of Ikṣvāku. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Stanza 45, that this King was the rebirth of Krodhahantā, an asura.

1) *Birth.* Ikṣvāku had one hundred sons. Of them Vikukṣi, Nimi and Daṇḍa were famous. Daṇḍa became a famous archer when he grew up. In the Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa mention is made that this King Daṇḍa took part in the Devāsura battle (Battle between the gods and the demons) and killed several thousand asuras (demons).

2) *Administration.* The king Ikṣvāku gave his son Daṇḍa the country between the mountains Himālaya and Vindhya and anointed him the King of that country. Daṇḍa built a capital city known as Madhumatta and began to rule the country. He had an army of Caturāṅga (four parts, elephant, chariot, horse and infantry). The hermit Śamana was the priest of King Daṇḍa. (Uttararāmāyaṇa).

3) *The origin of Daṇḍakāraṇya (the forest of Daṇḍaka).* Daṇḍa once raped Arā, the daughter of hermit Śukra, who had been doing penance in a forest in the middle of the country of Daṇḍa. Śukra the hermit got angry and destroyed the country of Daṇḍa by a shower of fire. From that day onwards that country was known as Daṇḍakāraṇya. (For further information see under Arā).

**DAṆḌA II.**

1) *General information.* Another Kṣatriya King of ancient India. He was the son of the King Vidāṇḍa. In Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 185, it is mentioned that Vidāṇḍa and Daṇḍa had attended Draupadī Svayamvara (the marriage of Draupadī).

2) *Other information.* (1) Bhīmasena defeated the King Daṇḍa. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 307, Stanza 177).

(2) This King Daṇḍa was the brother of Daṇḍadhara, the king of Magadha. Daṇḍadhara and Daṇḍa were killed by Arjuna in battle. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 18, Stanza 16).

**DAṆḌA III.** An attendant of the Sun. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 3, Stanza 68).

**DAṆḌA IV.** A warrior of the kingdom of Cedi. He fought on the side of the Pāṇḍavas against the Kauravas and was killed by Karṇa. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 56, Stanza 49).

**DAṆḌA V.** A synonym of Mahāviṣṇu. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 149, Stanza 105).

**DAṆḌA VI (DAṆḌAKA).** A thief who had made the world tremble in the Dvāpara yuga. This wicked Daṇḍaka used to steal the wealth of the Brāhmaṇas, kill those who trusted him, speak lies, rape the women of others, drink liquor, eat the flesh of cows, mingle with wicked people and do various other sinful deeds daily. Daṇḍa once went to a Vaiṣṇavite temple to commit robbery. When he reached the steps of the temple he wiped his legs which were wet, on the ground and a small depression that was there, was levelled by the

drawing of his legs. He broke the lock with an iron rod and entered the temple. Inside the temple he saw Kṛṣṇa, clad in yellow robes lying on a beautiful cot, with his spouse Rādhā. The thief instantly bowed before the spouse of Rādhā. By this act his sins were washed away. Still impelled by his evil nature, he took the silk garment of Kṛṣṇa, spread it on the ground, collected as many things as he could take, placed them in the garment and making them into a bundle, got out of the temple with shaky feet. The bundle fell on the ground with a loud noise. Hearing the noise the neighbours woke up and looked out. The thief began to run and was bitten by a poisonous snake and fell down dead. The men of Yama (God of death) tied the spirit of the thief with a rope and took him before Yama. Citragupta looked into his accounts and informed Yama that he had committed all the sins. Yama asked if there was any good deed to his account. Then Citragupta said "When this great sinner was going to commit theft in a Vaiṣṇavite temple, at the steps of the temple, he levelled a pit by the mud on his leg, and that single good deed on his part has wiped out all his sins." Hearing this Yama gave him a golden seat and showed hospitality and then bowed before him and said "By the soil on your legs you have purified my abode today. I am grateful to you. Now you may go to the blissful world of Viṣṇu where there are no deaths or births or sorrow". Hearing this Daṇḍa entered Vaikuṅṭha. (Padma Purāṇa, Chapter 1).

**DAṆḌA VII.** A giant (Rākṣasa). This giant Daṇḍa was born to the giant Sumāli, by his wife Ketumatī. The nine ministers of Rāvaṇa, named Prahasta, Akampāna, Vikaṭa, Kālakāmukha, Dhūmrākṣa, Supārśva, Samhrāda, Prākvāta and Bhāsakarna were brothers of this Daṇḍa. (Uttara Rāmāyaṇa).

**DAṆḌAM I.** A divine weapon of Kāla (Yama). It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 41, Stanza 26 that King Yama had presented this weapon to Arjuna.

**DAṆḌAM II.** A holy place on the bank of river Pampā. Those who bathe in this holy place will get the fruits of giving a thousand cows as Gift. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 85, Stanza 15).

**DAṆḌAM III.** One of the four expedients. The four expedients are Sāma, Dāna, Bheda and Daṇḍa. A king should subdue an enemy by resorting to these four expedients. Of the four expedients, sāma and daṇḍa are considered to be the best.

Sāmādīnāmupāyānām  
Caturṇāmapi paṇḍitāḥ /  
Sāmaḍaṇḍau praśamsanti  
Nityam rāṣṭrābhivṛddhaye. //

(Manusmṛti, Stanza 109).

Wise people say that, of the four expedients Sāma and Daṇḍa are the most effective for the prosperity of the country.

**DAṆḌABĀHU.** A warrior of Subrahmaṇya (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 73).

**DANḌADHARA I.** A Kṣatriya King of Magadha. The following information about this King is available from the Mahābhārata.

1) Daṇḍadhara was born as the rebirth of a giant known as Krodhavardhana. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Stanza 46).

2) Bhīmasena, during his conquest of the countries, overcame King Daṇḍadhara and his brother Daṇḍa.