

tree which you see in front of us, was planted and tended by Pārvatī. My task is to protect this tree. Pārvatī and lord Śiva have authorized me to kill and eat the animals which come this way. Therefore this cow is my food."

The king was in a fix. He begged the lion to spare Nandinī and to eat his (king's) body instead. The lion agreed. The King put down his arms and stood bowing down in front of the lion. Hearing the words, "Beloved child, arise" he looked up, and the lion had vanished. Just then Nandinī told him that it was she herself who had done this to test him. The King and Nandinī then returned to the Āśrama. As a result of Nandinī's blessing, the King's wife bore a son who later became the celebrated emperor Raghu. (Padma Purāṇa, Uttara Khaṇḍa, Chapter 198).

(3) *Killing of the Asura, Virasena.* Once a powerful Asura named Virasena attacked Vaiśravaṇa. When lord Śiva came to know of it he tried to defeat Virasena, but in vain. At Śiva's request, Mahāviṣṇu entered the scene. He was also unable to subdue the Asura. Viṣṇu advised Vaiśravaṇa to seek the help of Dilīpa. Dilīpa went to Alakāpurī and encountered Virasena. Under the shower of arrows from Dilīpa, blood began to flow from the body of Virasena. But each drop of his blood came to life as a new Virasena and all those Virasenas continued a ceaseless battle with Dilīpa. At last Dilīpa prayed to Rakteśvarī who suddenly appeared and drank all the blood. In this way the king managed to kill Virasena. (Kampa Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa).

(4) *Dilīpa and the Holy Waters.* Once king Dilīpa led a saintly life on the bank of Gaṅgā, the sacred place worshipped by Devas, Ṛṣis and Gandharvas. With religious practices and offering pūjā to Devas, Ṛṣis and Pitṛs, he spent time in prayer and meditation. One day he happened to meet Vasiṣṭha, and paid homage to him. The sage Vasiṣṭha described to him all the places of sacred waters and explained the greatness of each. (See under Khatvāṅga). (Padma Purāṇa, Chapter 10).

DILĪPA II. A serpent born in Kaśyapa family. There is a reference to this serpent in Mahābhārata, Udyoga Parva, Chapter 103, Verse 15.

DILĪPĀŚRAMA. A sacred place. It was at this place that Ambā, the daughter of the King of Kāśī performed austere tapas (Penance). (See under Ambā).

ḌIMḌIKA. A rat who played a part in Biḍālopākhyāna. The story runs as follows:

Once a cat performed tapas, holding his hands up, on the banks of the Ganges, when he found no way to get food. Seeing the devotion of that cat all living beings birds and animals began to worship him. Once the cat called all rats and told them: "One cannot do spiritual and physical deeds at the same time. So I will look after your spiritual affairs. You should attend to my physical needs. That is, bring me food, bathe me in the Ganges, all these are your duties."

The rats agreed to do so. They took him to the Ganges, bathed him and gave him food. But, the cat, whenever he got a chance caught a rat and ate it up. The cat's health improved day-by-day and the number of rat's began to decrease. Among them, there was a clever rat named Ḍimḍika. He called all the other rats

and organized a secret conference. The subject of discussion was the cruel deeds done by the cat to the rats.

The next day Ḍimḍika went secretly to examine the ways of living of the cat. The cat ate Ḍimḍika. After 40 days the rats came to know that Ḍimḍika was missing. They assembled secretly. They elected a rat named Kokila as their leader. Under his leadership the rats declared independence and left the place. The cat also went his own way finding no means to get food. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 160).

DĪNNĀGA. A Sanskrit dramatist who lived between the second and fifth centuries A.D. "Dhīranāga" was his other name. The Sanskrit drama "KUNDAMĀLĀ" which is based on Uttara Rāmāyaṇa and has six acts, was composed by Dīnnāga. Dīnnāga, the Buddhist preacher and this Dīnnāga are two different persons. Vināyaka and Śiva are praised in the introductory stanzas of Kundamālā (A.B. Keith: Classical Sanskrit literature).

DĪNANĀTHA. A King who lived in Dvāpara Age. He was a mighty and famous Vaiśṇava. But his childless life distressed him very much. Once he consulted Gālava about his plight. Gālava assured him that if he performed a human sacrifice, a son would be born to him. A handsome, scholarly and highly-born man was to be sacrificed into the fire, A cripple, a dark-skinned man or a crude fellow was unsuitable for the purpose. The King's servants scoured the villages and towns looking for such a perfect man, but in vain. At last they reached a country called Daśapura, inhabited by noble Brāhmaṇas. The women of that place were reputed for their charming eyes. No man could resist their fascination. In that lovely city there lived a Brāhmaṇa named Kṛṣṇadeva with his virtuous wife and three sons. The King's servants requested Kṛṣṇadeva to give one of his sons to be sacrificed. They offered four lakhs of gold coins as price. The Brāhmaṇa and his wife cried bitterly and Kṛṣṇadeva offered himself instead of his sons. The royal servants seized one of his sons after throwing gold coins in the house and prepared to take him away. At this stage the second son of Kṛṣṇadeva came forward and volunteered himself. They agreed and he accompanied them to the palace. On their way they met the sage Viśvāmītra. He asked them to release the boy but they refused to set him free. The sage followed them to the palace and undertook to perform a sacrifice which would bless the King with progeny without a human sacrifice. The King accepted the offer and thus the boy was saved. (Padma Purāṇa, Chapter 12).

DĪPAKARṆĪ. A character in Guṇāḍhya's Bṛhatkathā. Dīpakarṇī was a King. He had a wife named Śaktimatī. One day while she was sleeping in the garden she was bitten by a snake and she died. Distressed by her departure, Dīpakarṇī accepted Brahmaçarya. He was deeply grieved because he had no son to succeed to his throne. One day Śiva appeared to him in a dream and told him thus:- "When you pass through the forest, you will come across a youth riding a lion. Take him to your palace; he will be your son." Dīpakarṇī woke up happily. He had faith in his dream. One day he went to a distant forest for hunting. There he saw a very handsome boy riding on a lion. He was reminded of his dream when the boy dismounted