

and the lion walked away slowly to a nearby stream to drink water. At once Dīpakarṇi shot an arrow at the lion. Suddenly the lion gave up its animal shape and transformed itself into a man and spoke to the King as follows:—

I am a Yakṣa named Sāta and a friend of Vaiśravaṇa. Once when I went to bathe in the river Gaṅgā, I happened to see a Ṛṣi virgin and I fell in love with her. I married her according to the Gāndharva rules. The Ṛṣis who came to know of it turned us into a lion couple by their curse. When we fell at their feet and begged pardon, they gave her a blessing that a son would be born to her and that I would fall under your arrow. After that we were wandering about as a lion-couple and in due course she became pregnant. In the fullness of time she gave birth to this boy and then was liberated from the curse. I have been bringing him up by giving the milk of lionesses. Now, by being hit by your arrow, I am also released from the curse. From this time kindly receive this mighty youth as your own."

After saying this, the Yakṣa vanished. Dīpakarṇi returned to the palace, taking the boy with him. Since he was carried by Sāta, the boy was named "Sātavāhana". When he grew up into a youth, Dīpakarṇi handed over the rule of the kingdom to him and entered into Vānaprastha. In course of time Sātavāhana became an emperor. (Kathāsarisāgara, Kathāpīṭha lambaka, 6th Taraṅga.).

**DĪPTA** Son of Manu Uttama. Uttama was the third Manu. He had three sons—Aja, Parāsu and Dīpta. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Part 3, Chapter 1).

**DĪPTAKETU**. A King of olden times. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 1, verse 237).

**DĪPTĀKṢA**. A Kṣatriya tribe. Purūravas, the renowned King was born in this family. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 74).

**DĪPTAROMĀ**. A Viśvadeva. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 91, verse 31).

**DĪPTI**. A Viśvadeva. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 91, Verse 34).

**DĪRGHA**. A king of Magadha. He was killed by Pāṇḍu. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 112, Verse 27).

**DĪRGHABĀHU I**. One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. Bhīmasena killed him in Bhārata War. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, chapter 96, Verse 26).

**DĪRGHABĀHU II**. A pious King. There are conflicting versions about him in the Purāṇas.

**DĪRGHAJAMGHĀ**. A Yakṣa who was the elder brother of the Yakṣa Puṣpadatta. (Kathāsarisāgara, (Kathāpīṭhalambaka, 2nd Taraṅga).

**DĪRGHAJIHVA**. A dānava (asura) born to Kaśyapa by his wife Danu. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, Verse 30).

**DĪRGHAKARṆA**. A rabbit. A character in one of the stories of the Pañcatantra illustrating the dangers of trusting mean or wicked people. (See under Pañcatantra).

**DĪRGHALOCANA**. One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra.

**DĪRGHAPRAJÑĀ**. A Kṣatriya King. He traces his ancestry from a part of the Asura, Vṛṣā Parva. Mahā-

bhārata (Udyoga Parva, Chapter 4, Verse 12) states that the Pāṇḍavas had sent an invitation to him at the time of the Kurukṣetra battle.

**DĪRGHAROMĀ**. (DĪRGHALOCANA). One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. He was killed by Bhīmasena in the Bhārata War. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 127).

**DĪRGHASATTRA**. A holy place. He who visits this holy place will derive the blessings of having performed the Aśvamedha and Rājasūya sacrifices. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 32).

**DĪRGHAŚRAVAS**. A son of Dīrghatamas. (Ṛgveda, Maṇḍala 1, Anuvāka 112, Sūkta 117).

**DĪRGHATAMAS**. A great Muni.

1) *Birth*. Aṅgiras, the son of Brahmā, had two sons, Utathya and Bṛhaspati. One day when Utathya was away from home, Bṛhaspati approached his elder brother's wife, Mamatā, who was pregnant at the time, and tried to have sexual union with her. But she tried to dissuade him and said—"The child in my womb, born from Utathya's semen has already mastered Vedas and Vedāṅgas. Your semen is also equally powerful. How can my womb bear the combined force of the two semens? So please refrain from this attempt of yours." But even after hearing these words of his sister-in-law, Bṛhaspati was not able to control his passions. At the time of the intercourse, when the semen of Bṛhaspati entered the womb, the child within it cried out—"Father! this passion is improper. Two persons have no place here. So withdraw your semen." Bṛhaspati did not heed the request. The child in the womb repelled the semen that entered the womb with his foot and it dropped on the floor. Bṛhaspati who became angry, cursed the child. As a result, the boy was born blind. He got the name "Dīrghatamas" because he was born blind. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 104).

2) *Family Life*. In brilliance of parts, Dīrghatamas<sup>1</sup> equalled Bṛhaspati. Dīrghatamas, who was born blind, married Pradveṣi, a Brāhmaṇi. The couple had many children, chief of whom was Gautama. But after the birth of the children, Dīrghatamas fell into evil ways and became an object of hatred and contempt. The inmates of āśramas dubbed him a sinner. His wife, was disgusted with him. One day, the enraged Dīrghatamas, in his fury cursed women as a whole and Pradveṣi could not control her anger. She, with the help of Gautama and other sons made a raft and placing Dīrghatamas on it, floated it down the river Gaṅgā. The King Bali happened to see the raft floating down the river. He sent men to bring the boat to the bank. The King recognized Dīrghatamas and asked the Muni to beget brilliant and intelligent children by his queen. Dīrghatamas agreed and the King sent the queen Sudeśṇā to him. The queen who did not find pleasure in the company of the blind and decrepit Muni sent a nurse to him. The nurse bore to him Kakṣivān and ten other sons all of whom became great scholars. After some years the King came to know that the mother of those boys was the nurse. Then he sent Sudeśṇā again to the Muni. Dīrghatamas, after touching her body blessed her and five sons, Aṅga,

1. The story of Bṛhaspati's union with Mamatā is given in Bhāgavata Purāna. According to this story the child in her womb was Bharadvāja. The Mahābhārata states that the child born to Mamatā was Dīrghatamas.