

11) *Garuḍa, Saubhari and Kāliya*. Garuḍa had always entertained great hatred against the nāgas, and now Indra's permission having been obtained by him to eat the nāgas for food, Garuḍa decided to launch a regular nāga-hunting expedition. He began eating the nāgas one by one. Alarmed at this the nāgas planned for their security in a conclave, and approached Garuḍa with the proposal that one nāga would go to him daily to serve as his food instead of his indiscriminate killing of them. Garuḍa accepted their proposal. After some time the nāgas proposed to Garuḍa that they would conduct a sarpa-bali (sacrifice of serpents) and submit the food got out of the bali to him so that his nāga-hunting might be stopped for ever. Garuḍa agreed to this also. According to the new agreement daily one nāga began going to Garuḍa with the food got out of the bali.

But Kāliya alone did not agree to the programme as he did not recognise Garuḍa to be superior to him in power. And, Garuḍa, who wanted to teach the haughty Kāliya a lesson challenged him to fight, and the fight took place in river Kālindī, Kāliya's abode. During the fight the lashing of Garuḍa's wings raised the water in Kālindī up in the sky and it drenched the sage Saubhari all over, who was performing tapas on the banks of Kālindī. Saubhari cursed that the body of Garuḍa be shattered into a thousand pieces if ever he entered that area in future, and thenceforth the place became a prohibited area for Garuḍa. During after years Kāliya was put up at this place.

A kadamba tree alone outlived the effect of the poison of Kāliya. The tree could outlive the deadly poison because Garuḍa had rested on it on his way back from Devaloka with amṛta. (Bhāgavata daśama Śkandha).

12) *Relationship of Garuḍa with the kings of the solar dynasty*. King Sagara of the solar dynasty was married to Sumati, the elder sister of Garuḍa, and there is a story behind the marriage.

There was once a king called Subāhu in the solar dynasty. He married one Yādavī, but for many years they had no issues. Yādavī had become old by the time she conceived a child as the result of many yajñas etc. But, Subāhu's other wives, viz. co-wives of Yādavī, did not like the prospects of Yādavī becoming a mother. They administered poison to her with the result that Yādavī did not deliver in time, but continued as a pregnant woman for seven years. The sad couple, for their mental relief went into the forest and lived as disciples of a sage called Aurva. But Subāhu died rather soon and Yādavī prepared herself to follow him in the funeral pyre. But, the sage Aurva prevented her from self-immolation speaking to her thus : "You shall not act rashly. The child in your womb will become a famous emperor and rule over the whole world."

Yādavī yielded to the sage's advice and did not court death, and soon afterwards she delivered a son, and he was named Sagara, which meant "he who was affected by poison even while he was in the mother's womb. It was this child who, in later years, became reputed as emperor Sagara.

Sagara married the elder sister of Garuḍa when he was living as a boy in Aurva's āśrama, and there is a story behind the marriage, a story which related to the time when Garuḍa was not born.

Vinatā, mother of Garuḍa, while she was working as the slave of Kadrū, one day went into the woods to collect firewood for her mistress. In the terrible rain and storm that ensued, Vinatā lost her track and wandered in the forest for many days before she could take shelter in the āśrama of a Sannyāsin. The pious man felt sorry for poor Vinatā and blessed her that a son, who would be able to win freedom for her would be born to her. Garuḍa was the son thus born to her.

Before the birth of Garuḍa when Kaśyapa and Vinatā were living together with their daughter Sumati the boy sage Upamanyu, son of Sutapas, went to them and told Kaśyapa thus: "While touring round the earth I worshipped the pitṛs at Gayā and I have been told that they (Pitṛs) would get redemption only in case I married and became a father. I, therefore, request you to please give your daughter Sumati to me as wife. Vinatā did not relish this proposal. Upamanyu got angry at the rejection of his offer and cursed Vinatā saying that if Sumati was given in marriage to any other brahmin boy she (Vinatā) would die with her head broken into pieces.

It was during this period when Vinatā was in a fix about the marriage of Sumati that Garuḍa was born to her. He also thought over the problem and argued like this: the curse is only against a brahmin boy marrying my sister Sumati; why not Sumati be given in marriage to a Kṣatriya; but where to find an eligible Kṣatriya boy? At this stage Vinatā asked him to go and meet the Sannyāsin, who had promised her an illustrious son, in the forest and this Sannyāsin directed Garuḍa to Aurva, for advice and guidance. When Garuḍa met Aurva and sought his advice about the marriage of his sister, the sage thought that the context offered a very good bride to Sagara. And, according to Aurva's advice Sumati was married to Sagara, and thus Garuḍa became related to the Kings of the Solar dynasty. (Brahmaṇḍa Purāṇa, Chapters 16, 17 and 18). The Sixty thousand sons born to Sagara by Sumati were reduced to ashes in the fire which emanated from the eyes of Kapila. (See Kapila). When Anśumān, the grandson of Sagara was going around the world to find out these 60,000 sons he met Garuḍa on the way, and it was he who advised that the waters of Gaṅgā should be brought down on earth so that the dead sons of Sagara might get spiritual redemption. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bālakāṇḍa, Chapter 41).

13) *Garuḍa's conceit laid low*. A very beautiful daughter, Guṇakeśī, was born to Mātali, the charioteer of Indra. In the course of his search for a suitable husband for Guṇakeśī he came to Pātālloka in the company of Nārada, and there Mātali selected a noble nāga called Sumukha as his prospective son-in-law. But a month before Garuḍa had eaten Sumukha's father Cikara, and he had also given notice to Sumukha that within a month's time he too would be eaten.

Nārada and Mātali met Sumukha at the abode of his grandfather Āryaka, who was very glad to marry his grandson to Mātali's daughter. But, the threat of Garuḍa that he would eat Sumukha before the month was over stared them all cruelly in their face. So, they appealed to Indra for a solution to the problem, in the presence of Mahāviṣṇu. Indra gave an extension of life to Sumukha and he wedded Guṇakeśī. The marriage enraged Garuḍa so much that he went to Indra's