

seventh layer broke and when Gokarṇa finished the twelfth Skandha the phantom rose from the bamboo to heaven. When it was going to heaven it looked at Gokarṇa and told him that his mokṣa was due to the result of his hearing the saptāha reading. When Gokarṇa asked him why none of the others who heard it got it he said that it was because none had heard it with such rapt attention as he had done.

Gokarṇa then conducted another reading of Saptāha and the people present heard the same with rapt attention. When the reading was over, a chariot of Viṣṇu from Vaiṅkuṇṭha descended and carried away all those who heard the reading. The place where Gokarṇa sat and read the Saptāha became known later as the famous Gokarṇa. (Chapters 1 to 3, Bhāgavata Māhātmya).

2) *Mitrasaha and Gokarṇa*. A King of Ayodhyā named Mitrasaha who became famous by the name of Kalmāṣapāda, became a demon by a curse of Vasiṣṭha. He attained mokṣa by living and worshipping God in the temple at Gokarṇa. (See under Śivarātri for details).

3) *Gokarṇa and the origin of Kerala*. Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa gives a story associating Gokarṇa with the origin of Kerala.

By the request of Bhagīratha the river Gaṅgā fell on earth and flowing as different brooks emptied its waters in the ocean. The level of the water in the ocean went up and the temple of Gokarṇa and the land of Kerala were submerged in waters. The sages who were in the temple somehow escaped and took refuge on the mountain Sahya. Paraśurāma was doing penance there then and the sages went to him and told him of their plight. Paraśurāma went and stood in Gokarṇa and threw an axe to the south. All the land from Gokarṇa up to the place where the axe fell rose up from the ocean to form a piece of land which was named Kerala. (Chapter 97 of Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa).

4) *Other Purāṇic details regarding Gokarṇa*. (i) Bhagīratha did penance to bring Gaṅgādevī to Earth at Gokarṇa. (Sarga 12, Chapter 42, Bāla Kāṇḍa, Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa).

ii) The serpent named Śeṣa spent much time living here. (Chapter 36, Śloka 3, Ādi Parva).

iii) Arjuna visited Gokarṇa while he was on his pilgrimage. (Śloka 34, Chapter 26, Ādi Parva).

iv) Gokarṇa was one of the abodes of Śiva. Brahmā, Mahārṣis, Bhūtas and Yakṣas used to stay at Gokarṇa to worship Śiva. (Śloka 24, Chapter 85, Vana Parva).

v) The holy place of Gokarṇa is renowned in all the three worlds (Śloka 15, Chapter 88, Vana Parva).

vi) Gokarṇa is a tapovana also. (Śloka 51, Chapter 6, Bhīṣma Parva).

vii) Śrī Kṛṣṇa, Arjuna and Pradyumna together killed Nikumbha, who had kidnapped Bhānumatī, at Gokarṇa. (Chapter 90, Viṣṇu Purāṇa).

**GOKARṆĪ**. A follower of Skandadeva. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 90; Śloka 42).

**GOLAKĪ**. The mother of an Asura named Madhupa. This woman was born from the face of Brahmā in Kṛtayuga. (Uttara Rāmāyaṇa).

**GOLOKA**. A divine world. Mostly cows live in this world which is above all the other worlds. Surabhi, daughter

of Dakṣa, acquired great powers by doing rigorous penance in this world. Pandits say that Goloka is the upper lip, Brahmāloka, the lower lip of Mahāviṣṇu. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 347, Śloka 52).

**GOMANTA I**. A famous mountain near Dvārakā. This mountain is known as Goma and Raivataka also. Once Śrī Kṛṣṇa went to see Gomanta and on the way met Paraśurāma. (Skandha 10, Bhāgavata). Paraśurāma and Śrī Kṛṣṇa went together and saw this beautiful mountain. Vyāsa has devoted Chapter 40 of Viṣṇu Parva entirely for the description of this mountain of Gomanta. Once Balabhadrarāma caught hold of Jarā-sandha on this mountain but let him off.

**GOMANTA II**. A place of habitation lying to the north-east of ancient India. (Śloka 43, Chapter 9, Bhīṣma Parva).

**GOMANTA III**. A mountain of the island of Kuśa. (Śloka 8, Chapter 12, Bhīṣma Parva).

**GOMATĪ**. (KAUŚIKĪ). A celebrated river of Purāṇic fame. This is worshipped as a goddess.

1) *The curse*. Kampa Rāmāyaṇa states that this river was Kauśikī, sister of Viśvāmitra. She became a river by a curse.

Kauśikī was married to a sage called Ṛcika. Once Ṛcika went to devaloka to see Brahmā. Kauśikī unable to bear the separation followed her husband by her power of chastity. On the way Ṛcika saw her and cursed her and made her into a river. From that day onwards she started running as a river named Kauśikī. See under Kauśikī. (Bāla Kāṇḍa, Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa).

2) *Other details from the Purāṇas regarding Gomatī*.

i) Śrī Rāma conducted the Aśvamedha yāga at Naimiśāranya on the banks of this river. (Uttara Rāmāyaṇa).

ii) The sins of those who drink the water of this river are washed away. (Śloka 20, Chapter 169, Ādi Parva).

iii) The devī of Gomatī river lives in the court of Varuṇa worshipping him. (Śloka 23, Chapter 9, Sabhā Parva).

iv) Dharmaputra came to this river during his pilgrimage. (Śloka 2, Chapter 95, Vana Parva).

v) Gomatī is the wife of Agnideva called Viśvabhuk. (Śloka 19, Chapter 219, Vana Parva).

vi) This is one of the most important rivers of Bhārata-varṣa. (Śloka 18, Chapter 9, Bhīṣma Parva).

vii) The land of Divodāsa, King of Ayodhyā, extended from the shores of Gaṅgā to the base of Gomatī. (Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa, Chapter 2).

**GOMATĪMANTRA**. A mantra for obtaining blessings from cows. If one recites this mantra standing in the midst of cows one would get many children and great wealth and if it is recited by a woman she would get the affection and love of her husband. (Śloka 42, Chapter 81, Anuśāsana Parva, M.B.).

**GOMEDAKA**. See under Navaratna.

**GO MUKHA I**. A notorious King. He was born of the family of Krodhavaśā. (Śloka 63, Chapter 67, Ādi Parva).

**GOMUKHA II**. An asura who was a follower of an asura called Śūrapadma. (Asura Kāṇḍa, Skanda Purāṇa).

**GOMUKHA III**. Son of Mātali, charioteer of Indra. (Śloka 8, Chapter 100, Udyoga Parva).

**GONANDA**. A soldier of Skandadeva. Śloka 65, Chapter 43, Śalya Parva).