

Eternal Being Viṣṇu when he measured three steps at the sacrifice of Mahābali. Now, I am very old and have not enough strength to jump over the sea." (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Kiṣkindhā kāṇḍa, Sarga 65).

4) *Jāmbavān and the incarnation of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.* The long-living Jāmbavān who had witnessed nine out of the ten incarnations of Mahāviṣṇu is seen in connection with the precious stone Syamantaka, in the incarnation of Kṛṣṇa. The Sun-god gave this jewel Syamantaka to King Satrājīt. His younger brother Prasena wore it and went to the forest for hunting. A lion killed him and took the jewel in his mouth and was going along the forest when Jāmbavān killed it and took the jewel. It was rumoured that Śrī Kṛṣṇa had killed Prasena and taken the jewel. So Śrī Kṛṣṇa went in search of the jewel to the forest, defeated Jāmbavān and took the jewel, and returned it to Satrājīt. Śrī Kṛṣṇa married Jāmbavatī the daughter of Jāmbavān. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 10).

5) *Jāmbavān became old for ever.* At the time of the incarnation of Vāmana, Jāmbavān was very strong and valiant. When Vāmana brought under control the three worlds by measuring three steps Jāmbavān travelled throughout the three worlds carrying the news everywhere. Within three moments Jāmbavān travelled eighteen times through the three worlds. In this travel of lightning-speed the end of the nail of his toe touched the highest peak of Mahāmeru, who considered it as an insult and said "You are arrogant of your speed and youth. Hereafter your body will not reach where your mind reaches and you shall be ever old." Because of this curse Jāmbavān became old and unable to carry out what he wished. (Kamba Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa).

**JĀMBAVATĪ.** Daughter of the famous Jāmbavān. Śrī Kṛṣṇa went in search of the famous precious stone Syamantaka which was lost when Prasena wore it and went to the forest for hunting. Kṛṣṇa found it in the cave of Jāmbavān, who fought with him and was defeated. Finally he gave his daughter Jāmbavatī to Śrī Kṛṣṇa as wife, and the jewel Syamantaka as dowry. Śrī Kṛṣṇa came to his capital Dvārakā with his wife Jāmbavatī. When sons were born to the other wives of Kṛṣṇa she became sad and requested her husband that sons may be born to her also. On hearing this request Kṛṣṇa went to the mountain where the hermit Upamanyu was engaged in penance. With that hermit who was an ardent devotee of Śiva, as his teacher, Kṛṣṇa began a penance before Śiva, in accordance with his (Upamanyu's) advice. The penance, holding yogadaṇḍa and Kapāla (devotee's staff and skull) lasted for a month. In the second month penance was performed standing on one leg and drinking only water. In the third month he did penance standing on toes only and using air as food. After six months Paramaśiva appeared and blessed him that his wives would have ten sons each. Accordingly Jāmbavatī gave birth to her first son who was named Sāmba. (Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 4).

**JAMBHA.** A Daitya (Asura). He was the chief among those who snatched away Amṛta from the hands of Dhanvantari. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 3).

In the Purāṇas several Asuras (demons) bearing the name Jambha are mentioned. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Dākṣiṇātyapāṭha, Chapter

38, that Śrī Kṛṣṇa killed an Asura named Jambha. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 98, Stanza 49 that the teacher Śukra refused to help a Jambha whom Indra killed later. It occurs in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 102, Stanza 24, that Mahāviṣṇu had killed an asura called Jambha. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 285, Stanza 2, that a group of Jambhāsuras, who had undergone training under Rāvaṇa, once attacked Hanūmān. Another Jambhāsura had been killed by Arjuna, as stated in Mahābhārata, Udyoga Parva, Chapter 49. All these Dānavas (Asuras) were sons of Kaśyapa born of his wife Danu.

**JAMBHAKA.** A Kṣatriya King. This King was killed in battle by Śrī Kṛṣṇa. He had a son who, later became King but was killed by Sahadeva in his conquest of the countries. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 31, Stanza 7).

**JAMBŪ.** A tree which stands on the southern side of the mount Mahāmeru. This tree bears fruits and flowers throughout the year irrespective of the seasons. This tree is watered by the Siddhacāraṇas. The branches of this tree reach the realm of heaven. The place in which this tree stands is known as Jambūdvīpa. The ripe fruits as big as elephants fall down and are broken. The juice oozing from them flows as a big stream. This is called the river Jambū. It flows through the southern part of the country known as Ilāvṛtta. The goddess who lives on the bank of this big river is known as Jambvādinī. She is very fond of Jambū fruit. This goddess who loves everything in the world, is worshipped by the gods, nāgas (snakes), the hermits and sages, Rākṣasas (giants) and every body in the world with devotion. Even by the mere thinking of her she could be pleased. She destroys the sins and increases the purity of people. She cures all the diseases and gives people, health, wealth, long life, prosperity and happiness.

The juice of the Jambū fruit when mixed with soil and acted upon by water, air and sun's rays, turns into a kind of gold called Jambūnada. The devas, Vidyādharas etc. use this gold to make ornaments for their women. This gold is superior to other kinds of gold. (Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 8).

**JAMBŪDVĪPA.** One of the Purāṇically famous Saptadvīpas (seven continents). These seven continents are embankments separating the seven seas. Jambūdvīpa, Krauñcadvīpa, Śākadvīpa and Puṣkaradvīpa are included in the seven islands.

Jambūdvīpa has an area of one lakh of yojanas. The island is round like a lotus flower. There are eight long mountain ranges which divide the island into nine countries, which look like nine petals of the lotus flower. Each of these nine countries has an area of nine thousand yojanas. The two countries of the north and south extremities are bowshaped. Four of the remaining seven are longer than the rest. The central country is square. This country is known as Ilāvṛtta, at the centre of which there is the mountain Sumeru with a height of one lakh of yojanas. This is called Svarṇaparvata (The mountain of gold). The top of this mountain is a great flat place with an area of thirty thousand yojanas. This great plain is ten thousand yojanas above the ground level. On the northern part of Ilāvṛtta lie the three mountain ranges of Nilagiri,