

to this city after his marriage. Once the King Daśarṇa came near this place and sent a Brāhmaṇa messenger to Kāmpilya. In olden days, a King named Brahma-datta used to rule over this city. (M.B. Udyoga Parva). See under the word 'Brahmadatta'.

KAMSA I. Son of Ugrasena, King of Mathurā, and an incarnation of an Asura called Kālanemi.

1) *Genealogy.* Descending in order from Viṣṇu : Brahmā-Atri - Candra - Budha-Purūravas-Āyus-Nahūṣa-Yayāti-Yadu-Sahasrajit-Śatajit-Hehaya-Dharma-Kuntī (Kunī)-Bhadrasena-Dhanaka-Kṛtavīra-Kārtavīryārjuna-Madhu-Vṛṣṇi - Yudhājit - Śini-Satyaka-Sātyaki (Yuyudhāna)-Yaya-Kunī-Anamitra-Prāni-Citraratha - Kukura-Vahni-Viloma-Kapotaroman (Kapotalomān)-Tumburu - Dundubhi-Daridra-Vasu-Nāhuka-Āhuka-Ugrasena-Kaiṣa.

2) *Kaiṣa, an incarnation of Kālanemi.* In the svāyam-bhuvamanvantara Marīci had a wife named Ūṣā and they had six mighty and powerful sons. One day they ridiculed Brahmā saying 'A father who has married his own daughter' (Brahmā married Sarasvatī, his own daughter). Brahmā became angry and cursed them to be born as demons on earth. All the six sons were, therefore, born as sons of a demon called Kālanemi on earth. In their next birth they were born as sons of Hiranyakaśipu. They led a pious life and pleased at this Brahmā asked them what boon they wanted and they demanded that they should not be killed by anybody. Their father, Hiranyakaśipu, did not like his sons getting a boon behind his back and so he cursed his sons "May you all six go to Pātāla (nether-world) and sleep there for a long time under the name of Śadarbhakas. The sons begged for relief and Hiranyakaśipu said that they would after sleeping for a long time be born to Devakī, wife of Vasudeva, as their children and that Kālanemi, their father in their previous birth would then be born as Kaiṣa and kill the children of Devakī by striking their heads on the ground.

Accordingly Kālanemi was born as Kaiṣa and he killed the six children of Devakī by striking them on the ground. (Skandha 4, Devī Bhāgavata).

The 10th Skandha of Bhāgavata states "killing Kālanemi born as Kaiṣa" when it refers to the killing of Kaiṣa.

3) *Another story regarding the birth of Kaiṣa.* Kaiṣa was not actually the son of Ugrasena. It was Nārada who revealed to Kaiṣa the story of his birth. It is as follows.

Once when the wife of Ugrasena was in her menses she went to the garden with her companions. Then a Gandharva named Dramila disguised as Ugrasena went to her but she knew the trick and cursed him that he would go to hell. But Dramila committed rape on her and then left the place making her pregnant. When the child was born Ugrasena's wife greatly hated the child got of an evil deed and cursed it saying that the child would be killed by a member of the family of Ugrasena. Thus Kaiṣa was the son born to the wife of Ugrasena by the Gandharva, Dramila. It was because Kaiṣa was aware of it that he behaved very badly to Ugrasena and Kṛṣṇa. (10th Skandha, Bhāgavata).

4) *How Kaiṣa got Mathurāpurī.* In olden times there was a famous place called Madhuvana in the river-base of Kālindī. The place got the name of Madhuvana because the demon Madhu was residing there.

Madhu had a son named Lavaṇa. Lavaṇa was a very wicked demon always ill-treating the devas. Śatrughna, son of Daśaratha, killed him and lived there establishing a beautiful kingdom there. He named that place Mathurā. After the death of Śatrughna two of his sons ruled that country. Then when the Sūrya dynasty became extinct the city of Mathurā came into the possession of the Yadu dynasty. It was ruled then by a very brave and valiant ruler named Sūrasena. Vasudeva father of Śrī Kṛṣṇa was the son of Sūrasena. After the death of Sūrasena another King of the Yādava dynasty, Ugrasena, became the ruler of the place, Vasudeva accepting cow-rearing as his profession. Kaiṣa became King keeping Ugrasena as a prisoner. (Skandha 4, Devī Bhāgavata).

5) *Vasudeva and Devakī are imprisoned.* Vasudeva married Devakī daughter of Ugrasena and sister of Kaiṣa. Kaiṣa pleased with his sister presented her with a chariot. Kaiṣa, Vasudeva and Devakī ascended the chariot and Kaiṣa himself drove the chariot. Then from an unknown source above came a voice which said "Oh King, know thou this and from this moment chalk out thy plans for the future. The eighth son of your sister will kill you for certain. You will be no match against him." (Chapter I. Bhāgavata 10th Skandha).

Hearing this voice from heaven Kaiṣa got furious and dragging his sister by the hair raised his sword to kill her. Vasudeva then pleaded weeping not to kill Devakī. Only the eighth child of Devakī was going to kill him. Vasudeva would hand over all the children to him as soon as they were born. Such arguments pacified Kaiṣa and he left off Devakī without hurting her.

Devakī delivered a son. He grew up under the name of Kīrtimān and one day Nārada visited Kaiṣa and told him that he was the incarnation of an Asura named Kālanemi and the son who would be born to Devakī to kill him was Nārāyaṇa. Kaiṣa, blind with fury, killed Kīrtimān by striking him on the earth and imprisoned both Devakī and Vasudeva.

6) *Man-hunt of Kaiṣa.* Pralamba, Cāpūra, Tṛṇāvarta, Muṣṭika, Ariṣṭaka, Keśi, Dhenuka, Agha, Vivida and Pūtanā were born in the Asura family as servants of Kaiṣa. He sent them to different sides of the country to torment the Yādavas. Many Yādavas left the place. Even Kaiṣa's father Ugrasena, a great devotee of Viṣṇu was teased.

In the meantime Devakī delivered six sons including Kīrtimān and all of them were killed by Kaiṣa by smashing their heads against the ground below. The seventh foetus of Devakī was aborted. (Instructed by Mahāviṣṇu, Māyādevī invoked the seventh foetus of Devakī and transferred it to the womb of Rohiṇī another wife of Vasudeva. The child thus born to Rohiṇī was Saṅkarṣaṇa or Balabhadrarāmā. Mahāviṣṇu then entered the womb of Devakī instructing Māyādevī to enter that of Yaśodā, wife of Nandagopa of Ambādī at the same time. Śrī Kṛṣṇa was then born in the figure of Viṣṇu. The watchmen were sleeping. Following directions from the new-born child Vasudeva took the child to Gokula and leaving the child there brought back the child of Yaśodā and placed it near Devakī. When the watchmen awoke and knew about the delivery of Devakī they immediately ran to Kaiṣa to tell