

2) *Some details.* (1) It is stated in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, Stanza 9, that the hermits called Bālakhilyas were the sons of Kratu.

(2) Kratu was present at the birth-celebration of Arjuna. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 122, Stanza 52).

(3) Kratu came to save the Rākṣasas from the Rākṣasa sattra, (A great sacrificial fire meant for the Rākṣasas (giants) to jump into and die by themselves) performed by the hermit Parāśara. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 189, Stanza 9).

(4) Kratu was a luminary in the councils of Brahmā and Indra. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 7, Stanza 17).

(5) Kratu was present at the Birth celebration of Skandadeva. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 10).

(6) There is a group of hermits called 'Citraśikhaṇḍins, of which Kratu is a member. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 335, Stanza 27).

(7) By the blessings of Śiva, Kratu got a thousand sons. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 14, Stanza 87).

(8) Kratu went to visit Bhīṣma who was lying on the bed of arrows awaiting death in the beginning of Uttarāyaṇa of the year. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 26, Stanza 4).

KRAUṆCA I. An Asura. In Vāmana Purāṇa, Chapter 57 it is mentioned that this Asura was killed by Subrahmaṇya.

KRAUṆCA II. A mountain. There is a story about this mountain. Long ago there lived an Asura named Krauṅca. He was leading a wicked life and was haughty and arrogant. Once Agastya went to Kailāsa and worshipped Śiva. Kāverīdevī also was standing close by, worshipping Śiva. God Śiva appeared before Agastya and told him that he might ask for any boon. He requested for the power to push down Vindhya by kicking and to establish a holy Tīrtha (bath) on the earth. Śiva granted the boons. For making the tīrtha Śiva turned Kāverī into a river and placed her in the water-pot of Agastya. As Agastya was returning from Kailāsa with Kāverī in his water-pot, Krauṅca the Asura took the shape of a mountain and hindered his way. The Asura caused a heavy rain too. Agastya wandered through the forest without finding the path for days. At last he realized the cause. He took a few drops of water from his waterpot and with chanting of Mantras and meditation threw the drops at the Asura with the curse that he would stand there for ever as a mountain. He said that he would be liberated from the curse when pierced by the arrow of Subrahmaṇya, the son of Śiva. From that day onwards Krauṅca the Asura had been standing there as a mountain. That mountain was called 'The mountain of Krauṅca.' (Skanda Purāṇa, Asura Kāṇḍa).

There is another statement in Harivaraṇa, Chapter 18, that the mountain Krauṅca was the son of the mountain Maināka, the son of Menā.

Subrahmaṇya fought a terrible battle with the Asuras. Many died. Bāṇāsura, the son of Mahābali, fled from the battlefield and hid himself inside the mountain Krauṅca. Subrahmaṇya cleft the mountain into two with the arrow given by Agni (Fire-god). Thus Krauṅcāsura was liberated from the curse. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 46).

In 'Meghadūta' Kālidāsa mentions about the cleavage in the mountain Krauṅca. In Mahābhārata, Vana

Parva, Chapter 225, Stanza 33, mention is made that through this cleavage swans and vultures fly to Mahāmeru. (For the story of how Paraśurāma cleft the Krauṅca mountain see under Paraśurāma).

KRAUṆCA III. (A kind of snipe). A bird.

KRAUṆCADVĪPA. (ISLAND OF KRAUṆCA). One of the Saptadvīpas (seven islands). The seven islands are Jambūdvīpa, Plakṣadvīpa, Śālmalīdvīpa, Kuśadvīpa, Krauṅcadvīpa, Śākadvīpa and Puṣkaradvīpa. (Devī Bhāgavata Skandha 8). Krauṅcadvīpa is described as follows in Mahābhārata, Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 12:—In this island there are the mountains Krauṅca, Vāmanaka, Andhakāra, Maināka, Govinda, Nibiḍa, and Viṣkambha. The various countries in this island are Kuśāla, Manonuga, Uṣṇa, Prāvaraka, Andhakāraka, Munideśa, Dundubhisvana etc.

KRAUMCANIṢŪDANA. A holy place on the banks of river Sarasvatī. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 84, Stanza 160 that he who bathes in this place would get a Vimāna.

KRAUṆCAPADĪ. A holy place. He who makes oblations of balls of boiled rice in this place will obtain remission of sin of Brahmahatyā (sin incurred by killing a Brahmin). (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 25, Stanza 42).

KRAUṆCĀRUṆAVYŪHA. Another name of Krauṅcavyūha (strategic disposition of an army). Dhṛṣṭadyumna formed the Krauṅcāruṇavyūha. (Mahābhārata, Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 50).

KRAUṆCAVYŪHA. A strategic formation of the army in the shape of Krauṅca bird (snipe). In the battle of Bhārata, Bhīṣma made the formation of Krauṅca. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 75). The Krauṅca disposition has eight strategical positions, the face, eyes, head, neck, stomach, left flank, right flank and thighs. In the disposition formed by Bhīṣma, Droṇa stood at the face, Aśvatthāmā and Kṛpa stood at the eyes, Hārdikya at the head and Śūrasena at the neck. The King of Prāgjyotiṣa stood at the stomach of the formation. The Tuṣāras, Yavanas, Śakas and Cūpuvas guarded the right flank. Śṛtāyus and Bhūrīśravas kept the thighs.

KRAUṆCĪ. A daughter born to Kaśyapaprajāpati by his wife Tāmṛā the daughter of Dakṣa. Five daughters, Krauṅcī, Bhāsi, Śyenī, Dhṛtarāṣṭrī and Śukī were born of Tāmṛā. From Krauṅcī, were born the owls, the Bhāsas from Bhāsi, the hawks and vultures from Śyenī, the swans and ruddy geese from Dhṛtarāṣṭrī and Narā, the mother of Vinatā from Śukī. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Sarga 14).

KRAVYĀDA (S). A particular group of the Manes or the deified ancestors that receive the souls of the deceased. Mention is made about the Kravyādas in Mahābhārata, Śānti Parva, Chapter 269, Stanza 15.

KRIYĀ. One of the daughters of Dakṣa. Dharmadeva married her and three sons Daṇḍa, Naya and Vinaya were born to him of Kriyā. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Arṇiśa I, Chapter 7).

ṚKĀṆEYU. (KAKṢEYU). One of the ten sons whom King Raudrāśva of the Puru dynasty begot of the Apsaras called Miśrakeśī. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 94, Verse 10).

KṚMI I. A King of the royal dynasty of Aṅga. King Uśīnara had five wives named Nṛgā, Narā, Kṛmī, Daśā and Dṛṣadvatī, and of them were born respective-