

Dānavas, Men, Devas, Gandharvas, Kinnaras and Kimpuruṣas live. There are four castes of people there called Damis, Śuśmis, Snehas and Mandehas, all of them leading righteous lives. The above four castes form the Brahmin, Kṣatriya, Vaiśya and Sūdra people in the island. There are six mountains there called Vidruma, Hemaśaila, Dyutimān, Puṣpavān, Kuśeśaya and Harimandira. There are also seven rivers there called Dhūtapāpā, Śivā, Pavitrā, Sammati, Vidyut, Ambhā and Mahī. These rivers annihilate sins. There are also other small rivers there. There is a Kuśastamba (a cluster of Kuśa grass) in the island. The stamba which glows like fire illuminates the island by its light and lustre. (Bhāgavata). The Kuśa island is encircled by the Ghr̥ta ocean. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa Part II, Chapter 4).

KUŚĀDYA. A Kingdom in ancient India. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Verse 44).

KUŚĀLA. A holy place near mount Krauñca. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 12, Verse 21).

KUŚĀLAVA (S). Kuśa and Lava, the two sons of Sītā. (For details see under Kuśa).

KUŚĀLYA. A holy place in ancient India. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Verse 4).

KUŚĀMBA I. The third son of Uparicaravasu. Kuśāmba is also known of Mañivāha. Vasu had five sons called Brhadratha, Kuśāmba, Māvella, Yadu and Rājanya.

KUŚĀMBA II.

1) *General.* A son of Kuśa. The city he built was called Kauśāmbī. (See under Kuśa).

2) *Other information.* (i) Kuśāmba had a daughter called Cārvaṅgī, who was married by Bhadrāśreṇya, the solar King. (Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa, Chapter 2).

(ii) Two sons, Śakra and Gādhi were born to Kuśāmba and to Gādhi was born a daughter, Satyavatī. Viśvāmitra was Gādhi's son. (Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa, Chapter 57).

This statement is not quite correct. Certain other Purāṇas maintain that Gādhi, the father of Viśvāmitra was the son of Kuśāmbha, who was the son of Kuśika and brother of Kuśāmba. (See under Kuśāmbha).

KUŚĀNĀBHA. A son born to Kuśa of Vaidarbhi. (For Genealogy see under Viśvāmitra). Sage Kuśa had four sons, namely Kuśāmba, Kuśānābha, Asūrtarajasa and Vasu, and Kuśānābha built Mahodayapura and lived there. One hundred daughters were born to him of his wife Ghr̥tācī. Vāyubhagavān once asked the girls to marry him at which proposal they laughed at him in derision. He cursed them and made them hunch-backed ugly women, and Kuśānābha felt very sorry about this cruel fate of his daughters.

To Somadā, daughter of a Gandharva woman called Ūrmilā, had been born a son, Brahmādatta, due to the mental power of the sage Cūli. Kuśānābha gave in marriage his hundred daughters to Brahmādatta, and they were cured of their hunch at the touch of Brahmādatta and became their previous beautiful selves.

Kuśānābha conducted the yajña called Putrakāmeṣṭi, and Kuśa, who was so pleased by the yajña blessed him to have a son called Gādhi. Viśvāmitra was the son of this Gādhi. Viśvāmitra had also a sister Satyavatī, whom R̥cika wedded. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bālakāṇḍa, Cantos 32-35).

KUŚAPLAVA (KUŚAPLAVANAM). A holy place. He who bathes and spends three nights there will derive

the benefits of an aśvamedha yajña. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 12, Verse 21). It was here that Ditidevī, wife of Kaśyapa did tapas for a son who would be equal to Indra. Again it was here that Indra entered into the womb of Diti and cut into pieces the child in the womb. Kuśaplava became famous because of the above happenings. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bālakāṇḍa, Canto 46).

KUŚASTAMBA. A sacred centre in the Kuśa island. He who bathes here attains a place in heaven surrounded by Deva women. See under Kuśadvīpa. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 25, Verse 28).

KUŚASTHALĪ. The ancient name of Dvārakāpurī; an island. It was emperor Revata, son of Ānarta, the grandson of Vaivasvata Manu, who first built a city in Kuśasthalī and ruled the country. Their genealogy: Descended from Viṣṇu thus: Brahmā—Marīci—Kaśyapa—Vivasvān—Vaivasvata Manu—Śaryāti (Śayyāti)—Ānarta—Revata. Certain Purāṇas state that it was Ānarta, who first built forts at Kuśasthalī. It would not be incorrect to say that Ānarta built forts in this city first founded by his son Revata. The city was sunk in the sea after a few years. Afterwards the region remained as a forest for long years. It was later on that Śrī Kṛṣṇa built Dvārakā there. Following Kṛṣṇa's death the Yādava dynasty got annihilated and the region was again swallowed by the ocean. Dvārakā is believed to have been an island situated in the sea to the west of Gujarat. Even today there is a place called Dvārakā on the coast of India to the west of Gujarat. (Devī Bhāgavata, 7th Skandha and Bhāgavata, 10th Skandha).

KUŚĀŚVA. An Ikṣvāku King son of King Sahadeva and father of King Somadatta. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bālakāṇḍa, Canto 47).

KUŚĀVĀN. A deep region in the lake called Ujjānaka near Mānasa lake. (Vana Parva, Chapter 130, Verse 18).

KUŚĀVARTA I. Son of King R̥ṣabha, Kuśāvarta had nineteen brothers, viz. Bharata, Ilāvarta, Brahmāvarta, Āryāvarta, Malaya, Bhadraketu, Sena, Indraspr̥k, Vidarbha, Kikāṭa, Kavi, Hari, Antariṣṭha, Prabuddha, Pippalāyana, Āvirhotra, Dramiḍa, Camasa and Karabhājana. (Bhāgavata, 5th Skandha).

KUŚĀVARTA II. A holy place in ancient India. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 25, Verse 13).

KUŚĀVATĪ. A city in Devaloka, where the Devas once conducted a mantra yajña. It was on his way to participate in this yajña that Agastya cursed Kubera and his attendant Mañimān. (Vana Parva, Chapter 161, Verse 54).

KUŚEŚAYA. One of six great mountains in the Kuśa island. Durdharṣa, Dyutimān, Puṣpavān, Kuśeśaya, Kumuda and Hari are the six mountains. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 12, Verses 10 and 11).

KUŚĪDA I. A sage belonging to the order of Vyāsa's disciples. (Bhāgavata 12th Skandha).

KUŚĪDA II. To live on the interest of money lent to others. Agriculture, breeding of cows, commerce and Kusīda are the professions ordained for brahmins in emergency. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 152).

KUŚIKA I. A very famous monarch in the Puru dynasty. He was the grandfather of Viśvāmitra and father of Gādhi.