

very virtuous King had to come and live with a caṇḍāla girl."

Hearing this the King went to her and asked her all details. When she repeated the story the king knew that the lady was the mother of his caṇḍāla wife. The King and ministers were surprised to find that his vision was real and within that short period of his meditation he had lived a life of years. This perplexed the King. He then gave the old lady whatever she wanted and after consoling her started for the palace thinking about the wonderful happenings and mysteries of life.

**LAVANA III.** A demon who lived in the island of Rāmaṇīyaḥ. He had come to the island long before the serpents came to that place. The serpents saw him when they went there to live. (Śloka 2, Chapter 27, Ādi Parva).

**LAVANA IV.** Another King of the family of Hariścandra. Yogavāsīṣṭha says that this King had participated in several Rājasūya yajñas.

**LĀVĀNAKA (LĀVĀṆAKA).** A place of Purāṇic fame near the country of Magadha. There are many forests in this place suitable for hunting and so several kings used to come and stay at Lāvānaka in times of old.

**LAVANĀŚVA.** A sage. This sage showed very high respect to Dharmaputra. (Śloka 23, Chapter 26, Vana Parva).

**LAYA.** A King of old. He was a member of the court of Yama. (Śloka 21, Chapter 8, Sabhā Parva).

**LEKHA (S).** A deva-gaṇa (set of celestial beings) of Raivata Manvantara. In this set there are eight Devas named Dhruva, Dhruvaṣṭi, Praghāsa, Pracetas, Bṛhaspati, Manojava, Mahāyaśas and Yuvanasa. (Brahmaṇḍa Purāṇa, 2, 36, 76).

**LIKHITA I.** An ancient sage. The King of that land cut off his hands on a charge of theft. But they grew into their original form by the power of the penance of his brother, (Chapter 23, Śānti Parva).

It was a time when the celebrated King Sudyumna was ruling over the country. On the banks of the river Bāhudā in that country there lived two sages, Śaṅkha and Likhita, in two separate hermitages of their own. Once Likhita went to the āśrama of his elder brother Śaṅkha and finding none but feeling hungry took some vegetables from there and started eating them. While he was eating his brother walked in and he deemed the action of his brother taking the vegetables without his permission as an act of theft. Cutting the hands of the culprit was the punishment accorded by the King at that time to the offender. Śaṅkha sent Likhita to the King. The King received the sage respectfully and gave him a seat. The sage then told him all that had happened and then Sudyumna ordered the hands of Likhita to be cut off. Blood was oozing from his hands when Likhita went and bowed before his brother. The brother congratulated him on his accepting the punishment for his crime and asked Likhita to go and take a dip in the Bāhudā river. Likhita bathed in that holy river and then he found both the hands growing like lotus-buds from his body. He rushed to his brother and showed him the hands and then Śaṅkha said that it was due to the power of his penance that Likhita got his hands. Then Likhita asked his brother why he did not purify him by his power before. Śaṅkha replied that the power of punishing was vested in the King and the King

Sudyumna had become great by executing the law correctly.

**LIKHITA II.** An evil-natured priest of Haimśadhvaja, the King of Campakapurī. Śaṅkha his brother also was the King's priest. Haimśadhvaja blocked the sacrificial horse of the Aśvamedha yajña of Dharmaputra and Arjuna attacked the King to get the horse released. To mobilise an army the King announced that each and every soldier should assemble at the place by day-break the next morning and added that those who disobeyed would be put in burning oil.

By early morning the next day all the soldiers excepting the son of the King arrived at the palace. Sudhanvā, the King's son, was a general of the army and his absence annoyed the King. Haimśadhvaja was hesitating whether his son should be punished when Likhita advised the King to execute the punishment.

The King put Sudhanvā into a big cauldron of boiling oil but Sudhanvā escaped from it unscathed to the surprise of all. Likhita and Śaṅkha said that Sudhanvā escaped because the boiling of the oil was incomplete and uneven. So they boiled the oil again and threw Sudhanvā into it. At this moment a huge palm tree split into two and fell on them and they were killed. (Jaimini Aśvamedhaparva).

**LĪLĀDHYA.** A son of Viśvāmitra. He was a Brahmavādī (Śloka 53, Chapter 4, Anuśāsana Parva).

**LĪLĀTILAKAM.** The first book of Literary criticism in Malayālam. The author of the book is unknown. The book is divided into eight parts. Maṇipravāla, Malayālaśabdas, Alaṅkāra, Kāvyaḡaṇas, Kāvyaśoṣas and Rasa are critically examined in this book.

**LĪLĀVATĪ I.** Wife of Dhruvasandhi, King of Kosala. (For details see under Dhruvasandhi)

**LĪLĀVATĪ II.** A prostitute who attained Svarga by simply observing the Śuklāṣṭamīvrata in the month of Proṣṭhapada in which was born Rādhādevī. Chapter seven, Brahmakhaṇḍa of Padma Purāṇa contains the following story.

In times of old in Kṛtayuga there was a beautiful prostitute of the name Līlāvātī. Once she went away from her own town to another in search of better prospects. There she saw a big assemblage of people in a temple. They were observing Rādhāṣṭamīvrata and worshipping their deity with scented flowers and incense of sweet fragrance. Some were reciting prayers, some were singing and yet others were dancing. The whole atmosphere was filled with devotion. Līlāvātī went to them and enquired about it. They told her that that day was the birthday of Rādhādevī, the Śuklāṣṭamī of the month of Proṣṭhapada, and if anyone observed Vrata on that day worshipping Rādhādevī he would be absolved of all sins.

On hearing that, Līlāvātī decided to observe the Vrata. She joined the devotees of the temple and observed the Vrata with great devotion. Soon she died of snake-bite and the servants of Yama came to take her soul to hell because of the sins she had committed as a prostitute. But before the Yamadūtas could touch her, Pārśadas of Mahāviṣṇu wearing the insignia of Śaṅkha, Cakra, Gadā and Padma came to her with a chariot drawn by kingly swans and took her to heaven.

**LIṄGAPURĀṆA.** See under Purāṇas.