

of Kurukṣetra. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 91, Verse 20).

MAHĀRAURAVA (M). A naraka (hell). (See the section on Naraka under the word Kāla I).

MAHĀRAVA. A King of the Yadu dynasty. In Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 218, we read that this Kṣatriya King had participated in the festival conducted by Yādavas at the Raivataka mountain.

MAHARLOKA. A world which was believed by the ancient people to be situated one crore yojanas above the "Dhruvapada". Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Part II, Chapter 7 says that it is there that sages like Bhṛgu live till the end of Kalpa.

MAHĀROMĀ. A King of the Solar dynasty. He was the son of Kṛtirāta and father of Svarṇaromā. (Bhāgavata. 9th Skandha).

MAHĀSĀLA. A King of the Aṅga dynasty. He was the son of Janamejaya and father of Mahāmanas. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 277).

MAHĀŚAṆKHA I. A crocodile celebrated in the Purāṇas. He had a wife named Śaṅkhinī. The seven children born to Śaṅkhinī became the Maruts in the Svārociṣa Manvantara. There is a story in Chapter 72, Vāmana Purāṇa about these children who became Maruts. R̥tadhvaja, son of Svārociṣa Manu had seven heroic sons. They went to Mahāmeru and began to worship Brahmā for gaining Indra's place. Indra was alarmed. He sent the Apsarā woman Pūtanā to the sons of R̥tadhvaja to obstruct their tapas. There was a river flowing by the side of their āśrama. R̥tadhvaja's sons came to the river to take their bath. Just at that time, Pūtanā also came there and began to take bath. At her sight, the young men had an involuntary emission of semen. Śaṅkhinī, wife of the crocodile Mahāśaṅkha swallowed it. The princes whose tapas was interrupted returned to the palace. Pūtanā returned to Indra and reported the matter. After some years, Śaṅkhinī happened to be caught in a fisherman's net. The fisherman caught her and informed R̥tadhvaja's sons about his catch. They took her to the palace and put her in a tank there. In due course Śaṅkhinī gave birth to seven children. Immediately after that she attained mokṣa. The children began to cry for mother's milk, moving about in the water. Then Brahmā appeared to them and told them not to cry and assured them that they would become the Devas of "Vāyu Skandha". He took them up to the sky and put them in Vāyuskandha. These children were the Maruts of the Svārociṣa Manvantara.

MAHĀŚAṆKHA II. A Nāga. Bhāgavata, 10th Skandha says that this Nāga revolves along with the sun in the month of Mārgaśīrṣa.

MAHĀSENA I. Another name for Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 225, Verse 27).

MAHĀSENA II. A prince of Ujjayinī. (See under Aṅgāraka I).

MAHĀŚIRAS I. An ancient sage. In Mahābhārata. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 4, Verse 10 we find that this sage shone in the assembly of Dharmaputra.

MAHĀŚIRAS II. A Nāga. Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 9 states that this Nāga worships Varuṇa in Varuṇa's assembly.

MAHĀŚRAMA. A holy place. Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 84, says that a person who spends a

night here observing a fast, would obtain "Subhaloka". One who spends three months like that will become a "Paramasiddha". (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 25, Verse 17).

MAHĀŚŪRA. One of the Asura leaders who fought against Subrahmaṇya. (Skanda Purāṇa, Asura Kānda).

MAHĀŚVA. A King celebrated in the Purāṇas. Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 8, Verse 19 says that this King now lives in Yama's assembly.

MAHĀSVANA. A follower of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 40, Verse 26).

MAHĀTALA. A section of Pātāla. The descendants of the serpent Kadṛū live here. These serpents are many-headed and terrible monsters. Chief among them are Kahaka, Takṣaka, Suṣeṇa, Kāliya and others. All these serpents have long and slender bodies, large hoods and are of very cruel nature. Still they are all afraid of Garuḍa and so live quietly with their families in Mahātala. (Devī Bhāgavata, 8th Skandha).

MAHĀTAPAS. A great sage. Varāha Purāṇa states that this sage advised King Suprabha to worship Viṣṇu.

MAHĀTEJAS. A warrior of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 70).

MAHATI. Nārada's Viṇā (Lute). It was this Mahatī which became the lute in the world, as the result of a curse. (See under Nārada).

MAHATTARA. One of the five sons of the Agni Pāñcjanya. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 22, Verse 9).

MAHAUJAS I. A King of ancient Bhārata. The Pāṇḍavas had invited this King to take part in the great battle. (Śloka 22, Chapter 4, Udyoga Parva).

MAHAUJAS II. A dynasty of Kṣatriyas. King Varayu was born in this dynasty. (Śloka 15, Chapter 74, Udyoga Parva).

MAHĀVEGĀ. A woman follower of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 46, Verse 16).

MAHĀVĪRA I. A son of Priyavrata. Svāyambhuva Manu had two famous sons named Priyavrata and Uttānapāda. Of them, Priyavrata married Surūpā and Barhiṣmatī, the two beautiful and virtuous daughters of Viśvakarma Prajāpati. By his first wife Surūpā, Priyavrata had ten sons, namely, Agnīdhra, Idhmajihva, Yajñabāhu, Mahāvīra, Rukmaśukra, Gṛtāpṛṣṭha, Savana, Medhātīthi, Vītihotra and Kavi. The youngest of his children was a daughter named Ūrjasvatī. (Devī Bhāgavata, 8th Skandha).

MAHĀVĪRA II. Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Verse 68, refers to a Mahāvīra, who was the re-birth of the Asura Krodhavaśa.

MAHĀYAŚAS. A woman follower of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 46, Verse 28).

MAHENDRA I. Father of the princess Pātālī. (See under Pātālīputra).

MAHENDRA II. One of the holy mountains. This mountain has great Purāṇic importance.

(1) After slaughtering the Kṣatriyas to extinction sage Paraśurāma made Mahendra his place of abode. (Śloka 53, Chapter 129, Ādi Parva).

(2) Once Arjuna visited the mountain Mahendra. (Śloka 13, Chapter 214, Ādi Parva).

(3) The presiding deity of this mountain sits in the court of Kubera worshipping him. (Śloka 30, Chapter 10, Sabhā Parva).