

and said "Every desire of yours will be fulfilled. You will never be rugous or grey-haired and will live virtuous and famous till the end of the world. Omniscience will be an asset for you". After having said so much Pārvati and Parameśvara disappeared. The Purāṇic belief is that the realised soul of Mārkaṇḍeya is moving about in the universe. (10th Skandha, Chapters 8 to 11, Bhāgavata).

6). *Details from Mahābhārata relating to Mārkaṇḍeya.*

(i) This sage shone in the court of Dharmaputra. (Śloka 15, Chapter 4, Sabhā Parva).

(ii) He sits in the court of Brahmā and worships him (Śloka 12, Chapter 11, Sabhā Parva).

(iii) Once Mārkaṇḍeya gave Dharmopadeśa to the Pāṇḍavas. (Chapter 25, Vana Parva).

(iv) Mārkaṇḍeya sitting on the banks of the river Payoṣṇī sang praises about river Payoṣṇī and king Nṛga. (Śloka 5, Chapter 88, Vana Parva).

(v) Once Mārkaṇḍeya narrated to Dharmaputra stories about Kings and Rṣis. (Chapters 186 to 232, Vana Parva).

(vi) Mārkaṇḍeya had a vision of the great deluge. (Chapter 188, Vana Parva).

(vii) This sage entered the belly of Bālamukunda. (Śloka 100, Chapter 188, Vana Parva).

(viii) Mārkaṇḍeya gave a description of Kaliyuga. (Śloka 7, Chapter 190, Vana Parva).

(ix) He described at another time the incarnation of Kalki. (Śloka 93, Chapter 19, Vana Parva).

(x) Once Mārkaṇḍeya narrated the story of Tripuravadha to Dharmaputra. (Śloka 2, Chapter 33, Karṇa Parva).

(xi) Mārkaṇḍeya was also one among the several sages who visited Bhīṣma lying on his bed of arrows. (Śloka 11, Chapter 47, Śānti Parva).

(xii) Mārkaṇḍeya learnt Sahasranāma (thousand names) of Śiva from Naciketasa and taught the same to Upamanyu. (Śloka 79, Chapter 17, Anuśāsana Parva).

(xiii) Once Mārkaṇḍeya discussed with Nārada topics on many different subjects. (Dākṣiṇātya Pāṭha, Chapter 22, Anuśāsana Parva).

(xiv) Once Mārkaṇḍeya explained the evils of taking flesh as food. (Śloka 37, Chapter 115, Anuśāsana Parva).

(xv) The name of the wife of Mārkaṇḍeya was Dhūmorṇā. (Śloka 4, Chapter 146, Anuśāsana Parva).

(xvi) Yudhiṣṭhira worshipped Mārkaṇḍeya also when he worshipped great sages before commencing the Mahāprasthāna. (Śloka 12, Chapter 1, Prasthāna Parva, M.B.).

(xvii) Mahābhārata gives the following synonyms for Mārkaṇḍeya:—Bhārgava, Bhārgavasattama, Bhṛgukulaśārdūla, Bhṛgunandana, Brahmarṣi and Viprarṣi.

**MĀRKAṆḌEYA (M).** A famous holy place. This place is situated about sixteen miles to the north of Kāśī at a place where the rivers Gaṅgā and Gomati meet. He who visits this place would get the benefit of doing an Agniṣṭomayajña. Not only that, he would lift the prestige of his family. (Śloka 80, Chapter 34, Vana Parva).

**MĀRKAṆḌEYAPURĀṆA.** One of the eighteen Purāṇas. The number of granthas in it is ninethousand. It contains a critical study of Dharma and Adharma. It is considered to be very good to give this Purāṇa as

gift on the full-moon day in the month of Kārttika (November). (Chapter 272, Agni Purāṇa).

**MĀRKAṆḌEYASAMASYĀPARVA.** A sub-Parva of the Vana Parva of Mahābhārata. This contains chapters 82 to 242 of Vana Parva.

**MARMAN.** According to Indian Śāstras there are 108 Marmans in the body of a living being. Of these the most important are forehead, eyes, eye-brows, armpits, shoulders heart, chin etc. Bhaviṣya Purāṇa, Chapter 34 says that a snake-bite or a heavy blow on any one of these marmans would prove fatal.

**MĀRTTIKĀVANA (M).** An ancient country in Bhārata. During the time of the Pāṇḍavas this country was ruled by King Śalya. (Śloka 14, Chapter 16, Vana Parva). Paraśurāma killed all the Kṣatriyas of this country. (Śloka 12, Chapter 70, Droṇa Parva). Arjuna once made the son of Kṛtavarmā the King of this country. (Śloka 69, Chapter 77, Mausala Parva).

**MARU I.** A king of the Ikṣvāku dynasty, the father of Prasuṛuta and son of Śighra. He had become "Cirañjīvi" (immortal) by his Yogic power. According to Bhāgavata Purāṇa, all Kṣatriya families would perish in Kaliyuga. At that time, Maru would come back to the world to revive the Kṣatriya race. (Bhāgavata, 9th Skandha).

**MARU II.** A Videha king of the Nimi dynasty. (Bhāgavata, 9th Skandha).

**MARU III.** One of the chief lieutenants of Narakāsura. He was slain by Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

**MARUBHŪMI (MARUDHANVA).** The ancient name of the present Rājasthān. In Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 32, Verse 5 we see that Nakula had won a victory over Marudhanva during his triumphal march over the western country. Kāmyakavana in which is included Tṛṇabindu sarovara, is in Marudhanva. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 258, Verse 13). Marudhanva was also known as "Mārvāṭa". The sage Uttaraika lived in Mārvāṭa. In Mahābhārata, Aśvamedha Parva, Chapters 53, 54 and 55 it is stated that once Śrī Kṛṣṇa showed his Viśvarūpa to this sage at Mārvāṭa.

**MĀRUDHA.** A country of Purāṇic fame. Sahadeva conquered this place while he was on his victory march to the south. (Śloka 14, Chapter 31, Sabhā Parva).

**MĀRUTA.** The forty-nine Vāyus. (For details see under DITI).

**MĀRUTA (M).** An ancient place of habitation of south Bhārata. Those who stood on the right side of the Krauñcāruṇa Vyūha (a battle array) constructed by Dhṛṣṭadyumna in the Kurukṣetra battle were the people of Māruta from south Bhārata. (Śloka 57, Chapter 50, Bhīṣma Parva).

**MĀRUTAGAṆĀTĪRTHA. (MARUDGAṆĀTĪRTHA)** A sacred place. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 25, Verse 38).

**MĀRUTANTAVYA.** One of the sons of Viśvāmitra. (Śloka 54, Chapter 4, Anuśāsana Parva).

**MĀRUTĀŚANA.** A soldier of Subrahmaṇya. (Śloka 62, Chapter 45, Śalya Parva).

**MĀRUTASKANDHA.** An army of the Devas. The commander of the forces was Subrahmaṇya. (Śloka 55, Chapter 231, Vana Parva).

**MARUTS.** In the Purāṇas there are references to 49 gods who are known as "Maruts". All of them are the sons of Kaśyapa. The story of how the child in