

2) *How Medhāvī cursed a nymph.* One day in spring, Mañjughoṣā (Śucismitā), a nymph, was playing with other companions in the Caitrarathodyāna. Medhāvī was doing penance in a place nearby and Mañjughoṣā fell in love with the sage and she went near him and made love to him by dance and music. Medhāvī was attracted by her and the sage accepted her advances and lived with her for a long time.

One day Mañjughoṣā sought permission to go to Deva-loka. "Wait till daybreak" said the sage. When it was morning the nymph renewed her request and the sage said "Wait till I finish my evening prayers." Hearing this Śucismitā said "Oh, best of brahmins, how many mornings and evenings have gone by this time! Fiftyfive years nine months and three days have gone by since we started living together". The sage then counted the years and found she was correct. The astounding fact that his penance had such a long break made the sage angry and he cursed her and made her into an evil spirit. She begged for pardon and the sage said "If you observe with fasting the Caitrakṛṣṇaikādaśī called Pāpamocinī it will absolve you of all sins and give you release from the curse". (Chapter 48, Part 4, Padma Purāṇa).

3) *In R̥gveda.* The Aśvinīdevas once gave rice to this sage. (Śūkta 117, Anuvāka 17, Maṇḍala 1, R̥gveda).

MEDHĀVI II. A brahmin boy. This child once gave Tattvopadeśa to his father. (The philosophy that the human soul or material world is identical with the supreme spirit pervading the universe). Chapter 377, Śānti Parva).

MEDHYA. A holy place on the west coast. A river flows through this place. This sacred river is believed to be the place of origin of Agni. This is one of the rivers worthy to be remembered every morning and evening. (Chapter 155, Anuśāsana Parva).

MEDINĪ. A synonym for Earth (Bhūmi). (See under Kaiṭabha for details).

MEGHAHĀSA. A son of Rāhu. When he heard that Mahāviṣṇu had cut off the head of his father he went to the banks of the river Gautamī and practised severe penance. As a result of that Rāhu, his father, got a place among the other planets in the sky. (Chapter 142, Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa).

MEGHAKĀRNĀ. A female follower of Subrahmaṇya. (Śloka 30, Chapter 46, Śālya Parva).

MEGHAMĀLĀ. A female follower of Subrahmaṇya. (Śloka 30, Chapter 46, Śālya Parva).

MEGHAMĀLĪ I. A demon who fought against Rāma and Lakṣmaṇa in the forests. He was one of the captains of the army of the great demon Khara. The other captains were Śyenagāmī, Pṛthugrīva, Yajñaśatru, Vihaṅgama, Durjaya, Karavīrākṣa, Parigha, Kālakā-mukha, Mahāmālī, Sarpāsya and Rudhirāśana. (Sarga 26, Araṇya Kāṇḍa, Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa).

MEGHAMĀLĪ II. One of the two pārśadas given to Subrahmaṇya by Mahāmeru. The other was Kāncana. (Śloka 47, Chapter 45, Śālya Parva).

MEGHANĀDA. Indrajit, son of Rāvaṇa. (Only portions which were left off under the entry Indrajit are given here.

1) *Synonyms of Meghanāda.* Kānina, Rāvaṇi, Māyāvī, Indrajit. The origin of each name is given below:

(i) *Kānina.* Son of a virgin. In olden times, once, the Sea of Milk was churned. From it arose a beautiful

maiden called Sulakṣaṇā. She became an attendant of Pārvatī and one day while bathing in a pond in the garden she sent Sulakṣaṇā to fetch some clothes for her. Śiva who was then in Pārvatī's chamber alone, lost his control when he saw the beautiful Sulakṣaṇā and had intercourse with her. The maid was perplexed and then Śiva assured her that she would give birth to a child only after her marriage.

But when Sulakṣaṇā returned with the dress Pārvatī felt suspicious and she cursed her and made her into a frog and pushed it into that same pond.

Time passed on. Once Maya performed severe penance to please Śiva to get a daughter and Śiva persuaded Pārvatī to release Sulakṣaṇā from the curse and she did so turning her into a beautiful maiden named Mandodarī and Śiva gave her to Maya. Rāvaṇa married her and their first son was Kānina.

(ii) *Rāvaṇi.* Son of Rāvaṇa.

(iii) *Meghanāda.* (One having the sound of thunder). When he was born he made a sound as loud as thunder and so he was called Meghanāda.

(iv) *Māyāvī.* He accepted Śiva as his Guru and learned all the divine arts of magic like Mṛgendrajāla, Brahmendrajāla, Surendrajāla, Mahendrajāla Khagendrajāla, Vāyustambha, Jalastambha, Agnistambha, Ākāśa-saṅcāra, Parakāyapraveśa, Rūpabhedasvikāra and Tirodhāna. Because he knew all these tricks he was called Māyāvī.

(v) *Indrajit.* When Rāvaṇa attacked svarga he pushed forward too much and so was caught inside an army of the Devas which surrounded him. When Meghanāda saw it he broke the army circle of the devas and getting in caught Indra as a prisoner and brought him to Laṅkā. Indra was later released by the mediation of Brahmā and the latter gave him the name Indrajit meaning "Conqueror of Indra".

2) *Boons.* When Rāvaṇa was conducting his world campaign he performed at Nikumbhilā many yāgas and got from Brahmā many boons. Meghanāda acquired powers which had not been possible for mānavas, dānavas, vānaras or rākṣasas to acquire. He got a Vimāna (divine car) which could travel in all directions, backwards and forwards, up or down. He received an armour against which no weapon would be of any use. He possessed a weapon which would be effective against anything. Above all these, he had the power to remain invisible. He could be killed by only one person of his age who had lived for fourteen years dutifully and virtuously without sleep. Only Indrajit knew about this.

In a battle Māyāvī would show many tricks. If one was found ineffective he would use another. He had in his stock over a thousand such tricks all of which he had acquired with very little effort. (Yuddha Kāṇḍa, Kamba Rāmāyaṇa).

MEGHANĀDA II. A soldier of Subrahmaṇya. (Śloka 57, Chapter 44, Śālya Parva).

MEGHAPUṢPA. A horse of divinity drawing the chariot of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. (Śloka 27, Chapter 45, Virāṭa Parva)

MEGHASANDHI. A prince of ancient Magadha. Once Meghasandhi fought against Arjuna and was defeated. (Chapter 82, Aśvamedha Parva).

MEGHAŚARMAṆ. A brahmin who was a great devotee of Śūrya. When there was a drought in the country during the reign of Śantanu this brahmin by his worship