

daughter, Nikṣubhā was carrying since he had married her. As soon as he heard Sūrya's words Sujihva cursed his daughter thus: "Since the child in your womb is enveloped by fire the child born to you will be despised and rejected by people."

Then Sūrya went to Nikṣubhā and told her that though her child might be despised he would be a scholar, very well-bred and eligible for the worship of Agni.

As years passed many children were born to her by Sūrya. While she was living in the Śāka island Sāmba, the son of Kṛṣṇa, deputed her sons to perform rites in the Sūrya temple at Sāmbapura. Nikṣubhā's sons were married to girls born in the Bhoja family.

**NIKUMBHA I.** A very mighty Rākṣasa. Son of Kumbhakarṇa (Rāvaṇa's brother) by his wife Vajramālā. He had an elder brother called Kumbha.

When Kumbha was killed in the Rāma-Rāvaṇa war Nikumbha rushed to the front line and fought fiercely, and he was killed by Hanūmān. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa, Canto 77).

**NIKUMBHA II.** Third son of Prahlāda. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 63, Verse 19).

**NIKUMBHA III.** An asura born in the dynasty of Hiraṇyakaśipu. Sunda and Upasunda were his sons. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 208, Verse 2).

**NIKUMBHA IV.** A warrior of Subrahmaṇya (Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 58).

**NIKUMBHA V.** A king born in the Ikṣvāku dynasty. He was the son of Haryaśva and the father of Samhitāśva (Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa, Chapter 1).

**NIKUMBHA VI.** Another form of Gaṇapati. The following story about him in the Nikumbha state is told in Vāyu Purāṇa.

Suyaśā, wife of Divodāsa used to worship in the Nikumbha temple of Vārāṇasī for the sake of a child. As the worship did not yield the desired effect, Divodāsa smashed the idol in the temple into pieces. Then Nikumbha cursed that Vārāṇasī should decline. As a result of the curse the Hehaya like Tālajaṅgha and others destroyed Vārāṇasī and drove Divodāsa away from there. At last the Nikumbha temple was rebuilt and Vārāṇasī became prosperous again.

**NIKUMBHILĀ.** A particular spot in the forest outside Laṅkāpurī. (Uttara Rāmāyaṇa).

**NĪLA I.** A prominent nāga born to Kaśyapa Prajāpati of Kadrū. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 35, Verse 7).

**NĪLA II.**

1) *General.* A King born in the Hehaya dynasty. His was a rebirth of the asura called Krodhavaśa. Nīla was called Duryodhana also. Māhiṣmatī was the capital of his kingdom. He attended the Svayaṁvara of Draupadī. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Verse 61).

2) *Other Information*

(i) Once he fought a fierce battle with Sahadeva, but ultimately yielded to the latter at the instance of Agnideva. (See under Agni, Para 8).

(ii) He gave his daughter Sudarśanā in marriage to Agnideva. (See under Agni, Para 8).

(iii) During his triumphal tour, Karna defeated Nīla. (Vana Parva, Chapter 254, Verse 15).

(iv) In the battle of Kurukṣetra he fought on the side of the Kauravas. (Udyoga Parva, Chapter 19, Verse 23).

(v) He was reckoned as one of the mahārathis on the side of Duryodhana. (Udyoga Parva, Chapter 164, Verse 4).

(vi) Sudarśanā was a daughter born to him of his wife Narmadā. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 2).

**NĪLA III.** A monkey-chief, who was a dependant of Śrī Rāma. He was Agni's son. 'Nīla, son of Pāvaka (fire) shone forth like agni (fire). He stood foremost among the monkeys in the matter of effulgence, reputation and prowess'. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bālakāṇḍa, Canto 17). This monkey-chief was also included in the set of monkeys deputed by Śrī Rāma to search for Sītā. In the Rāma-Rāvaṇa war Nīla killed Pramāthī, the younger brother of the Rākṣasa called Dūṣaṇa. (Vana Parva, Chapter 287, Verse 27).

**NĪLA IV.** A warrior who fought on the Pāṇḍava side. He was king of Anūpadeśa. He fought against Durjaya and Aśvatthāmā and was killed by Aśvatthāmā. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 31, Verse 25).

**NĪLA V.** A famous king in northern Pāñcāla. The Purāṇas refer to sixteen famous kings of this royal dynasty from Nīla to Pṛṣata.

**NĪLĀ. I.** A daughter born to Kapiśa of Keśinī. (Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa, Chapter 3).

**NĪLĀ. II.** A Gopikā. Śrī Kṛṣṇa was one day picnicking in Vṛndāvana with the Gopī women, and they were proud that he was mad after them. To dispel their pride Kṛṣṇa disappeared abruptly from their midst and sported with the woman called Nīlā. Then she also became proud that Kṛṣṇa loved her more than the others, and she asked him to carry her on his shoulders. He stood there ready stretching his neck to carry her. But, when she stood with her legs parted to mount on Kṛṣṇa's neck and looked for him he was missing; he had already disappeared. The Gopikās ultimately shed their pride and then Kṛṣṇa appeared before them. (Ceruśśeri's Malayālam Epic Kṛṣṇa Gāthā).

**NĪLAGIRI.** Name of a mountain in the region called Ilāvṛta of Jambū island. In Ilāvṛta there are three chief mountains called Nilagiri, Śvetagiri and Śṛṅgavān, and in their middle three Varṣas (regions) called Ramyaka, Hiraṇmaya and Kuru. (Devī Bhāgavata, 8th Skandha).

**NĪLAKAṆṬHA DĪKṢITAR.** A Sanskrit poet who flourished in the 17th century A.D. He was the court poet of King Tirumala-Nāyaka. He has written works in all the branches of literature. His more important works are Śivalilārṇava, Gaṅgāvatarāṇa. Nīlakaṅṭhavijaya Campū, and Kalividambana. Śivalilārṇava contains twentytwo cantos. Its theme is the sixtyfour līlās (Divine sports) of Śiva installed at Madura. (South India) Gaṅgāvatarāṇa is a poem in eight cantos which describes the story of Bhagīratha bringing Gaṅgā down to the earth. In the first canto of Nīlakaṅṭhavijaya, A.D. 1638-39 is referred to as the period of its composition, and this reference helps us to determine the date of the poet.

**NĪLĪ.** Second wife of King Ajamīḍha. Two sons called Dusyanta and Parameśthī were born to the king of Nīlī. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 94, Verse 32).

**NĪLINĪ.** A wife of Sunaśśepha. A daughter called Śāntī was born to him of Nīlinī. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 278).

**NIMEṢA I.** A son of Garuḍa. (Udyoga Parva, Chapter 104, Verse 10).

**NIMEṢA II.** See under Kālamāna.

**NIMI I.** A famous emperor who was the son of Ikṣvāku,