

sent a secret message to Ayodhyā through a Brāhmaṇa named Sudeva that her second marriage was fixed for the next day and that Ṛtuparṇa should attend the ceremony. Ṛtuparṇa started at once with Bāhuka as his charioteer. On the way, Ṛtuparṇa's cloak happened to fall down from the chariot. At once he asked Nala to stop the chariot. But he told him that within a moment, the chariot had covered a distance of one yojana from the place where the cloak fell.

They saw a tree in the forest which was heavily laden with fruit. Ṛtuparṇa was able to tell at a glance, the exact number of leaves and fruits on that tree. He told Nala that he was able to do so with the help of the art "Akṣahṛdaya" and he taught it to Nala. In return for it, Nala taught the king the art of Aśvahṛdaya. At last they reached the city of Vidarbha. Damayantī managed to recognize Nala even in his disguise. Ṛtuparṇa who was happy over the reunion of Nala and Damayantī returned to Ayodhyā on the next day. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 77).

RTUSTHALĀ. A Celestial damsel. In Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 122, we find that she attended the birth festival of Arjuna.

RTVĀ. A Deva Gandharva. Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 122 states that he had taken part in Arjuna's birth-festival.

RTVIK. A Priest who officiates at a yāga.

Those who perform yāgas like Agnisandhāna, Agniṣtoma, Pākayaṇa etc. are called Rtviks. (Manusmṛti, Chapter 2, Verse 143).

RUCAKAPARVATA. (*The mountain Rucaka*) A mountain standing near the mountain Mahāmeru. It is mentioned in Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 8, that there are twenty mountains including Rucaka on the four sides of Mahāmeru.

RUCI I. A celestial maid of Alakāpurī. This celestial maid danced in the Palace of Kubera on the occasion of the visit of Aṣṭāvakra. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 19, Stanza 44).

RUCI II. A son of Brahmā and a Prajāpati. This prajāpati married Ākūti the daughter of Manu Svāyambhuva. A son and a daughter were born to Ruci of Ākūti. The son was the incarnation of Viṣṇu. He was named Yajña. The daughter who was incarnation of Mahālakṣmī was named Dakṣiṇā. Yajña was brought up in the hermitage of Svāyambhuva and Dakṣiṇā grew up in the hermitage of Ruci. When they grew up Yajña married Dakṣiṇā. Twelve sons, named Toṣa, Santoṣa, Pratoṣa, Bhadra, Śānti, Iḍaspati, Idhma, Kavi, Vibhu, Vahni, Sudeva and Rocana, were born to the couple. In the time of Manu Svāyambhuva these twelve were called the Tuṣitas, a group of devas (gods).

RUCI III. The wife of the hermit named Devaśarmā. (For detailed story see under Vipula).

RUCIPARVA. Son of the king Ākr̥ti. In the Bhārata battle, to save Bhīmasena, Ruciparva confronted the elephant of Bhagadatta and was killed by Bhagadatta. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 26, Stanza 51).

RUCIRĀŚVA. A king of the Lunar dynasty. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

RUDHIRĀMBHAS. A hell. (See under the word Kāla).

RUDHIRĀŚANA. A giant-chief who came to fight with Śrī Rāma, under the leadership of the giant Khara. In that fight the captains of the army of the giants were

Rudhirāśana etc. All of them were killed by the arrow of Śrī Rāma. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Aranya, Kāṇḍa Sarga 26).

RUDRA. A form of Śiva.

1) *General information.* The birth of Rudra is from Brahmā. Even before the creation of the Prajāpatis, Brahmā had created Sanandana, Sanaka, Sanātana and Sanatkuṁāra. These four were not desirous of mundane pleasures and were not prepared to beget children. They were great sages and scholars, of abstinence and without any discord and animosity. When these four showed no interest at all in the creation of the world, Brahmā became angry to such an extent that he was prepared to destroy the three worlds. At that time the whole of the three worlds shone in the radiance that emanated from the fire of the fury of Brahmā. Then from his shining eyebrows which were curved with fury, a figure of unbearable radiance like the mid-day sun came out. That figure was Rudra. Half of the fierce body of that Rudra who was very furious, was a woman and the other half was a man. Brahmā, saying, "Divide body", disappeared. Instantly Rudra split himself into the figure of a man and the figure of a woman. He again divided the body of the man into eleven parts. These eleven figures are the eleven Rudras.

The names of the eleven Rudras are given differently in different Purāṇas. In a text it is said that the eleven Rudras are, Manyu, Manu, Mahīnasa, Mahān, Śiva, Ṛtudhvaja, Ugraretas, Bhava, Kāma, Vāmadeva and Dhṛtavrata. According to some other Purāṇas, the eleven Rudras are Aja, Ekapāda (Ekapāt), Ahirbūdhnya, Tvaṣṭā, Rudra, Hara, Śambhu, Tryambaka, Aparājita, Iśāna and Tribhuvana. Brahmā apportioned to the eleven Rudras the eleven positions of the heart, the five organs of senses and the organs of action and to Rudra the eight positions of life, ether, air, fire, water, earth, the sun and the moon. It was said before that Rudra was divided into man and woman. From the woman-portion eleven Rudraṇīs came into being. They were Dhī, Vṛtti, Uśanā, Ūmā, Niyutā, Sarpis, Ilā, Ambikā, Irāvati, Sudhā and Dikṣā. The eleven Rudraṇīs became the wives of the eleven Rudras. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Aṁśa 1. Chapter 7).

2) *Other information regarding Rudra.* Details about the origin, life, character etc. of Rudra which occur in other Purāṇas are given below.

(i) Thirtythree children were born to Prajāpati Kaśyapa, by his wife Aditi, as Ādityas, Vasus, Rudras and Aśvins. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Aranya Kāṇḍa, Sarga 14).

(ii) From the fury of Brahmā, Rudra was born; from the lap of Brahmā, Nārada was born; from the right thumb, Dakṣa; from the mind, Sanaka and the others; and from the left thumb, a daughter named Vīraṇī was born. (Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 7).

(iii) In the beginning of Kalpa (Age of Brahmā) Brahmā meditated upon getting a child like himself and a child of blue complexion appeared on his lap. He ran here and there crying aloud. Brahmā asked him "Why are you crying?" He replied: "I must be named." Because he was crying (doing rodana) Brahmā named him Rudra (He who cries). He cried seven times more. Brahmā gave him seven more names. They were Bhava, Śarva, Iśāna, Paśupati, Bhīma, Ugra and Mahādeva. Thus there were eight Rudras. To each of them, Brahmā gave a position and wives and children.