

killed by Aśvatthāmā. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 200, Verse 13).

SUDARŚANA IV. A son of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. In the battle of Bhārata, he attacked Bhīmasena and was killed by him. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 27, Verse 31).

SUDARŚANA V. Son of Dhruvasandhi, king of Kosala. Manoramā was the mother of Sudarśana. (For further details see under Dhruvasandhi).

SUDARŚANA VI. One of the five sons of Bharata. Bharata, the son of R̥ṣabha, had married Pañcajanī, the daughter of Viśvarūpa. Five sons named Sumati, Rāṣṭrabhṛt, Sudarśana, Āvaraṇa and Dhūmraketu were born to Bharata, who divided Bhārata among his five sons and went to Sālagrāma and did penance there and died. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 5).

SUDARŚANA VII. The son born to god Fire by his wife Sudar'anā. (Sudar'anā was the daughter of Duryodhana (Nīla) of the dynasty of Ikṣvāku. For the story of her marriage see under Sudar'anā). Sudar'ana, the son of Fire, married Oghavatī the daughter of Oghavān. That story is given below:-

Oghavān had two children a daughter named Oghavatī and a son named Ogharatha. Oghavān gave his daughter in marriage to Sudarśana who was wise and learned. The couple lived in Kurukṣetra. Once Sudarśana said to Oghavatī thus:-"You should honour guests in all ways. If it is the desire of a guest, you should not draw back from giving even your body. Whether I am present here or not a guest should not be insulted." Oghavatī promised to obey the order of her husband to the letter. Sudarśana had been trying to become victorious over Mṛtyu (Death) and so Death had been waiting to find out some vulnerable point in Sudarśana's life. While Sudarśana had gone to cut firewood, a brahmin entered the hermitage and said to Oghavatī:-"If you do observe the duties of a house-holder show hospitality to me." Hearing this, Oghavatī welcomed the brahmin and performed the usual hospitality and asked him "What shall I do for you?" "Give yourself to me", was the answer. Seeing that the guest was not contented with the usual hospitalities and remembering the words of her husband, Oghavatī gave herself to the guest. Both of them entered the interior of the hermitage. At this moment Sudar'ana returned with firewood, and looked for Oghavatī and called her aloud, several times. He got no reply. Then the Brahmin who was lying inside called out:-"Hei! Son of Fire! A guest has come. Your wife showed all kinds of hospitality. But I was not contented with them. Now she is offering herself to me." These words did not seem to make any change in Sudar'ana. Dharmadeva was much pleased, as Sudarśana had come out victorious in all these tests. He came out and appeared in his own form and blessed Sudarśana. Due to the blessing of Dharmadeva, half of the body of Oghavatī flowed as the river Oghavatī and the other half was dissolved in the soul of her husband. Sudarśana thus earned victory over Mṛtyu and obtained prosperity.

SUDARŚANA VIII. A Vidyādhara. Because of the curse of Aṅgiras, this Vidyādhara was changed into a mountain snake. That story occurs as follows in Bhāgavata, Skandha 9.

While Sudarśana was playing about in the world of Gods with some Gandharva damsels, Aṅgiras and some other hermits came by that way. Sudarśana ridiculed

them. Aṅgiras became angry and changed him to a mountain snake by a curse. Sudarśana prayed for liberation from the curse. Aṅgiras said that in Dvāparayuga, Mahāviṣṇu would incarnate as Śrī Kṛṣṇa and when Kṛṣṇa trod upon him, he would regain his original form."

Sudarśana became a big snake and began life in Ambāḍi. Once the people of Ambāḍi went to Devī forest and worshipped Maheśvara. They spent the night on the banks of the river Kālindī. In the night the snake mentioned above, caught hold of the leg of Nandagopa. Seeing the snake swallowing Nandagopa the rest of them crowded there and struck at the snake with burning faggots. But it was in vain. Finally Śrī Kṛṣṇa came, and gave the snake a thrash. Instantly Sudarśana got his old form. He went to the world of gods.

SUDARŚANA IX. A brahmin sinner who lived in the Tretāyuga. The moment he touched the water in which Viṣṇu washed his feet, he obtained remission of his sins and entered Vaikuṅṭha. This story which is given under, occurs in Padma Purāṇa, Brahma Khaṇḍa, Chapter 17.

There lived a brahmin sinner in Tretāyuga. He used to commit sins such as eating food on the eleventh lunar day, ridiculing conventional fast and vow, etc. When he died, the men of Yama took his soul to the world of Yama. At his order Sudarśana was laid in horrible excrements for the period of hundred Manvantaras. When he was released he was born on earth as a hog. Because he ate food on Harivāsara (a fast-day) he suffered hell for a long time. His next birth was that of a crow and lived on excrements. Once the crow drank the water which fell on the steps while washing the feet of Viṣṇu. The crow obtained remission of all its sins. On the same day it was caught in the net of a forestman and died. Then a divine chariot drawn by swans came and took the crow to the world of Viṣṇu.

SUDARŚANA X. The son of Dīrghabāhu who was born in the family of Manu. He conquered all the kingdoms and ruled as an emperor. The famous hermit Vasiṣṭha was his priest.

Once Devī Mahākālī appeared to him in a dream and said to him: "Very soon a flood will occur in the world. So go to the Himālayas with your wife and the priest Vasiṣṭha and stay there in a cave." According to the instruction of Devī, Sudarśana took everybody with him and went to the Himālayas.

The prophecy of Devī came true. The earth was filled with water. This deluge lasted for ten years. After that the earth resumed its original form and Sudarśana returned to Ayodhyā. (Bhaviṣya Purāṇa, Pratisarga Parva, 1, 1).

It is mentioned in Kālīkā Purāṇa that Sudarśana had broken off a piece of a forest region of Himālaya and taken it to his country and founded on it the city called Khāṇḍavinagara and that after a short period king Vijaya of the Bhairava dynasty killed king Sudarśana and became the ruler of the city. (Kālīkā Purāṇa, 92).

SUDARŚANĀ XI. A wife of God Fire. This Sudarśanā was the daughter of Duryodhana, the son of Durjaya of the Ikṣvāku dynasty. The mother of Sudarśanā was Narmadā. It is said that so beautiful a woman as Sudar'anā had never been born. The God Fire was once fascinated by the beauty of Sudar'anā who had been instructed to serve him, and wished to accept her as his wife. So he informed her of his desire. Being