

King Uśinara. He let Śibi go only after the intervention of Nārada. (See under Śibi).

SUHOTRA VII. A giant. This giant was one of those kings who had ruled over the entire earth and had to leave the place due to fate. (M. B. Śānti Parva. Chapter 277, Verse 51).

SUHŪ. A Yādava king who was the son of Ugrasena. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

SUHVA. (SUHMA) A king of the Bharata dynasty. Suhva was the son of Bali, and grandson of Sutapas. Bali had no direct sons. Being miserable due to the absence of sons, Bali approached the hermit Dīrghatamas, by whom the queen gave birth to six sons. They were Aṅga, Vanga, Kaliṅga, Suhva (or Suhma), Puṇḍra and Adrūpa. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

SUJĀNU. A great saint. This hermit stopped Śrī Kṛṣṇa on his way to Hastināpura and conversed with him. (Mahābhārata, Dākṣiṇātyapāṭha, Udyoga Parva, Chapter 83).

SUJĀTA I. One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. He attacked Bhīmasena in the battle of Bhārata and Bhīmasena killed him. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 26, Verse 5).

SUJĀTA II. A monkey King. Sujāta was one of the sons born to Pulaha by his wife Śvetā. (Brahmaṇḍa Purāna, 2 : 7, 180-181).

SUJĀTĀ. The daughter of the hermit Uddālaka. (See under Khagodara).

SUJYEṢṬHA. A King who was the son of Agnimitra and the father of Vasumitra. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 12).

ŚUKA I. (ŚUKADEVA). The son of Vyāsa.

1) *Birth.* The sage Vyāsa once wished to have a son. So he began to worship Śiva for the purpose. His desire was to have a son who would combine in him the essential qualities of fire, earth, water, air and ether. He did tapas for a hundred years. Because of the austerity of his tapas, his locks of hair began to blaze like flames of fire. At last Śiva appeared and blessed him to have a son according to his wish.

After receiving his boon, Vyāsa returned to his āśrama. Soon after his arrival there, an Apsaras named Ghṛtācī came there in the form of a parrot. On seeing her beauty Vyāsa had an involuntary emission of semen. Śuka's birth was from this semen. (For further details see Para 2, under Ghṛtācī).

2) *Śuka's Boyhood.* It was Śiva who performed the Upanayana (wearing the sacred thread) ceremony of Śuka. Since he was born out of the semen which was the result of the fascination for a parrot, the boy was named "Śuka". He was a divine boy. Soon after his birth, he grew up into an exceptionally brilliant boy. He went to Bṛhaspati and mastered all knowledge. After staying with Bṛhaspati for some years, he returned to his father's āśrama.

3) *In Vyāsa's hut.* Vyāsa was very happy at the arrival of his son after completing his education. In due course he thought of getting his son married to a suitable girl and to prepare him for an ideal Gṛhasthāśrama. But Śuka did not fall in with his father's proposal. All the efforts of Vyāsa to persuade him were in vain. At last he told Śuka that he was pleased with his stern resolve and allowed him to pursue his life as a Sannyāsī, if he wished for it.

From that time Śukadeva and Sūta, the disciple of Vyāsa began the study of Bhāgavata. But Śuka did

not find happiness in that study either. Vyāsa taught him spiritual philosophy. Even then Śuka could not find mental satisfaction. So his father sent him to Mithilā. At that time there was none who equalled Janaka, the then King of Mithilā. Before sending him away, Vyāsa made his son promise that he would return to his āśrama, immediately after leaving Mithilā.

4) *Śuka in Mithilā.* Śuka started his journey to Mithilā on foot. He passed through many lands and cities on his way. He visited many places inhabited by different classes of people like yogins, sages, mendicants, Vaikhānasas, Śāktas, Pāśupatas, Sauras, Śaivas, Vaiṣṇavas, etc. After taking two years to cross Mahāmeru and one year for crossing Himālaya he reached Mithilā. At the very sight of the land of Mithilā with its inhabitants living in luxury and prosperity, Śukadeva was filled with wonder.

One of the sentries at the palace gate who saw the dignified bearing and majestic figure of Śuka, standing at the entrance, greeted him with joined palms and conducted him into the royal palace. From there, a minister took him to the interior of the palace, where a passage led him to a beautiful park full of flowering trees and swimming pools. After giving him a seat in the park the minister left the place. There, he was attended by women who were like celestial beauties. But Śuka was not happy even in their company or attentions. He spent the whole night in deep meditation. The next morning King Janaka visited Śuka. After the exchange of customary greetings, Janaka enquired of him the object of his visit. Śuka answered that he came there to learn from Janaka the way to salvation, as directed by his father.

On hearing this, Janaka said :—"After Upanayana, (investiture with the sacred thread) a Brāhmaṇa should study the Vedas. He should discharge his debts to the Devas and to his Piṭṛs by tapas, worship of the guru and Brahmacharya. After the study of the Vedas, after mastering the senses, he should give Gurudakṣiṇā (fee to the teacher). Then the pupil may return home with the permission of the Guru (preceptor). After reaching home he should begin gṛhasthāśrama. After the birth of children, he should follow Vānaprasthāśrama. In that āśrama, a Brāhmaṇa should kindle fire in his soul. He should then renounce the dual state, rise above all desire and remain in Brahmāśrama." After receiving Janaka's advice, Śuka returned to his father.

5) *Domestic Life.* Śukadeva married the beautiful Pīvarī, daughter of the Piṭṛs and thus began his gṛhasthāśrama in Vyāsa's āśrama. He had four sons named Kṛṣṇa, Gauraprabha, Bhūri and Devaśruta and a daughter named Kīrti, by Pīvarī. Kīrti was married by Aṇu, the son of King Vibhrāja. (Devī Bhāgavata, 1st Skandha).

6) *Other details.*

(i) Vyāsa composed Bhārata and taught it to Śuka. (M.B. Chapter I, Verse 104).

(ii) Śukadeva recited the Mahābhārata story containing 14 lakhs of stanzas to Gandharvas, Yakṣas and Rākṣasas. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 1, Verse 106; Svargārohaṇa Parva, Chapter 5, Verse 55).

(iii) Śukadeva taught them the entire Vedas and the