

SUNANDĀ III. A princess of Śibi kingdom. She was married by King Pratīpa of the lunar dynasty and the couple had three sons called Devāpi, Śāntanu and Bālhika. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 95, Verse 44).

SUNANDĀ IV. Sister of Subāhu, King of Cedi. It was her whom the queen of Cedi appointed as companion of Damayantī, who lost her way and arrived at Cedi. She detected Damayantī conversing with the brahmin named Subāhu, who came to Cedi in search of the latter and reported about their meeting to the queen mother. The name of the father of Sunandā and Subāhu was Virabāhu. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapters 63, 68 and 69).

SUNARTAKA NAṬA. The name Śiva assumed when he appeared before Pārvatī, in disguise. Pārvatī was engaged in tapas then. (Śiva-Stotraśataka, 34).

ŚUNASSAKHA. Indra. Once Indra disguised himself as a Sannyāsī and travelled in the company of a dog. At that time, he made an attempt to steal lotus flower from Brahasaras in Kauśiki tīrtha. Indra struck down at a single blow, Yātudhāni, the woman guard of the saras, who opposed him. From this time when Indra went about in the company of the dog, he got the name "Śunassakha". (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 94).

ŚUNASŚEPHA (DEVARĀTA). The story of a Brāhmaṇa youth who was to be offered as human sacrifice and who was saved by Viśvāmītra, is famous in the Purāṇas. The name of the Brāhmaṇa youth was Śunaśśepha. But even in the Purāṇas there are two versions of this story. In one of them, Śunaśśepha is referred to as the son of Rōikamuni. In the other, it was Hariścandra who performed the yāga and Śunaśśepha who was brought for sacrifice, was the son of a Brāhmaṇa named Ajigarta. After Viśvāmītra saved the boy, he got another name, "Devarāta". (For details of the two versions, see under Ambariṣa and the 4th Para under Viśvāmītra).

Śunaśśepha later became a Maharṣi. He composed Rgveda, 1st Maṇḍala, 1st Aṣṭaka. Besides in Rgveda, 1st Maṇḍala, 6th Anuvāka, 30th Sūkta it is stated that Indra had given a golden chariot to Śunnaśśepha.

SUNAYA I. A King, son of the King of Pariplava and father of Medhāvī. (Bhāgavata, 9th Skandha). Pramati was the high priest of Sunaya. (Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa, 114).

SUNAYA II, A region famous in the Purāṇas. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Verse 64).

SUNDA. An asura. He had a brother named Upasunda, and their father was Niśumbha alias Jharjha. Sunda and Upasunda were very cruel asuras.

The two brothers performed tapas on the Vindhya mountain with the object of conquering the three worlds. All attempts made by Devas to break up their penance failed and ultimately Brahmā appeared before them. They secured from Brahmā a boon to the effect that they would not be killed by anyone else but only mutually by them. Swollen-headed by the boon the brothers conquered the three worlds and none could kill them. Ultimately the Devas sent Tilottamā, the celestial damsel to them and she made them quarrel with each other. Both of them who fell in love with Tilottamā and wanted her as wife fought with each other and got killed. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 221, Verse 19). For details see under Upasunda and Tāṭakā).

SUNDARA I. A Gandharva, the son of Virabāhu. Due

to Vasiṣṭha's curse he was born as a Rākṣasa whom Mahāviṣṇu later on raised from his fallen state. (Skanda Purāṇa).

SUNDĀRA II. An Āndhra monarch, son of Pulindasena and father of King Śātakarṇi. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Part 4).

SUNDARĪ. A Rākṣasa woman, the wife of Mālyavān. The couple had seven sons called Vajramuṣṭi, Virūpākṣa, Durmukha, Suptaghna, Yajñakēśa, Matta and Unmatta. (See under Mālyavān and Mālī).

SUNDARIKĀ. A sacred place. He who bathes at a particular spot here called Sundarikakuṇḍa will become very handsome. (Vana Parva, Chapter 84, Verse 56).

SUNDARĪVALLĪ. A daughter of Mahāviṣṇu. Sundarivallī and Amṛtavallī, another daughter of Mahāviṣṇu once performed penance on the banks of Ākāśagaṅgā for securing Subrahmaṇya as husband. (Skanda Purāṇa, Sambhava Kāṇḍa).

ŚUNDIKA. A town made famous in the Purāṇas, which existed in the eastern part of India. Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 254, Verse 8 mentions that this town was conquered by Karṇa.

ŚUNḌU. A King of the Puru dynasty. Manasyu was the son of King Prācinvān, the son of Janamejaya and grandson of Puru. Vitabhaya was the son of Manasyu. Śunḍu was Vitabhaya's son. Śunḍu's son was Bahuvīdha. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 278).

SUNETRA I. One of the sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra, the other sons being Kuṇḍaka, Hasti, Vitarka, Krātha, Kuṇḍina, Haviśravas, Bhumanyu, Pratīpa, Dharmanetra, Sunetra and Aparājita. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 94, Verses 58-60).

SUNETRA II. A son of Garuḍa. (Udyoga Parva, Chapter 10, Verse 2).

ŚUNGA. A dynasty. Puṣyamitra was the founder of this dynasty. Puṣyamitra was the military commander of Brhadaśva, the last King of the Maurya dynasty. It was after killing Brhadaśva that Puṣyamitra founded this independent dynasty. The Kings who belonged to this dynasty, namely Puṣyamitra, Vasujyeṣṭha, Vasumitra, Antaka, Pulindaka, Vajramitra, Samābhāga and Devabhūmi ruled for 112 years. (Matsya Purāṇa, Chapter 272, Verses 26-31).

ŚUNI. A King of the lunar dynasty. Bhāgavata, 9th Skandha mentions that this King was the son of Vivana and father of Śruta.

SUNĪTHA I. A maharṣi who lives in the court of Indra worshipping him. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 58, Verse 28).

SUNĪTHA II. A King who lives in the court of Yama worshipping him. (Sabhā Parva, Chapter 8).

SUNĪTHA III. Another name of Śiśupāla. (See under Śiśupāla).

SUNĪTHA IV. King of Sunītha. He was jealous of Yudhiṣṭhira being crowned King. (Sabhā Parva, Chapter 39, Verse 14).

SUNĪTHA V. A King of the Vṛṣṇi dynasty. He was taught the science of archery (dhanurveda) by Pradyumna, son of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. (Vana Parva, Chapter 183).

SUNĪTHA VI. A King of the Bharata dynasty, son of Suṣeṇa and father of Nṛakṣus. (Bhāgavata, 9th Skandha).

SUNĪTHĀ. Mental daughter of Mrtyudevatā (lord of death). Famous for her beauty in all the three worlds, Sunīthā begot a son called Vena by King Aṅga. (See under Vena).