

Rudra will be pervaded by Sāman. So the sound of Sāman will be unpalatable. Thus this Vaiṣṇavite power which is having the attribute of purity (Sattva) and Vedas, pervades mainly the sun though it remains on the seven groups also. Being the seat of this power, the Sun blazes with his rays and destroys the darkness in all the worlds.

Such a Sun is praised by the hermits. The Gandharvas sing in front of the Sun. The celestial maids dance before him. The giants guard him, the serpents prepare his chariot, the Yakṣas hold the bridle and the Bālahilyas stand around him. Viṣṇu who is having the figure of the Sun pervaded by the power of the Vedas, never rises or sets. The seven groups are separate from that Viṣṇu. As the figures of those who approach, are reflected in a mirror fixed on a post, that power of Viṣṇu, without separating itself from that chariot, pervades them who come every month in turn. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Amśa 2, Chapter 11).

4) *The direction of the sun.* The Sun starts from the east and goes to the western ocean. The directions east and west originate from this rising and setting. As a matter of fact when the sun rises in the east it is bright in places behind it. But it does not shine in the palace of Brahmā on the top of Mahāmeru. The rays of the sun which enter the palace are driven back by the radiance of the palace. The Mountain Meru is north to all islands and countries. So on one side of that mount it is always day and on the other side it is always night. When the Sun sets his light enters fire. So at night the light of fire goes far. In the same way, at day time, the light of fire enters the sun. So the sun shines more. Thus because the light of the sun and fire enter each other the day and the night wax when the sun shines on the southern and northern hemi-spheres. The dark nights and bright days enter water gradually. The water seems a little red, in day time because darkness has entered it in the night. After sunset the water seems a little white because the day has entered the water.

Thus when the sun passes through the middle of the island Puṣkara, the change of the Sun to one thirtieth portion of the earth is called 'Mauhūrtikagati' (covering the distance in a muhūrta—48 minutes). The sun, like a fly sitting on the circumference of the wheel of a potter travels round the earth inclining a portion of a thirtieth of the earth, and making day and night. In the beginning of the transit to the Tropic of Cancer, the sun passes into the zodiac of Makara, and then to Kumbha and Mīna. After having completed the three zodiacs, the sun makes the day and night equal and enters Viṣuva. At the end of travelling in the Northern hemi-sphere the sun enters the zodiac of Karkāṭaka and transit to the south begins. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Amśa 2, Chapter 8).

5) *The Sun in the clutches of the giants.* The Sun is being attacked daily by a kind of giants called the Mandehas.

6) *Family life.* The Sun married Samjñā, the daughter of Viśvakarmā. Three children Manu, Yama and Yamī were born to him by Samjñā. By Chāyā, the maid of Samjñā, three children, Śanaīścara, Manu and Tapatī were born to the Sun. Aśvinikumāras and Revanta were born by Samjñā to the sun who took the form of a horse. (See under Samjñā and Chāyā).

On several occasions other sons such as Sugrīva, Kālindī Karṇa and so on were born to the Sun. (For details see under those entries).

7) *The rising delayed.* A story stating that the rising of the sun was delayed because of the curse of Śilavatī, is stated in Mahābhārata. (See under Śilavatī).

8) *The Sun and the Syamantaka.* Once the King Satrājīt did penance and got the jewel Syamantaka from the Sun. (For detailed story see under Prasena).

9) *The Sun and Rāhu.* Once the Sun and the moon pointed out Rāhu who had come to partake of the Amṛta (Ambrosia) in stealth and Mahaviṣṇu cut off his head. (For detailed story see under Amṛta, Para 4).

10) *The Sun the teacher of Hanūmān.* The Sun is the teacher of Hanūmān. (See under Hanūmān).

11) *The Sun and Rāvaṇa.* Once Rāvaṇa happened to reach the Solar region, while he was conducting regional conquest. That night he rested on Mahāmeru, and then got into his plane Puṣpaka, ready for fight in the morning. Seeing the Sun rising up, Rāvaṇa called his minister Prahasta and said to him. "Minister, go and convey my words to the Sun. 'Rāvaṇa has come to fight. Either get down and fight or admit defeat.' Prahasta walked towards the sun and told the words of the King to the two gate-keepers Piigala and Daṇḍī. The Sun was informed of this by Daṇḍī. The Sun told Daṇḍī thus: "Daṇḍī, I don't mind whether I defeat or I am defeated by Rāvaṇa. The thing is, that I have no time." Daṇḍī informed Rāvaṇa of this. Rāvaṇa went away shouting that he had defeated the Sun.

12) *Fight with Śiva.* See under Śiva Para 7, Sub para 7.

13) *The Sun lost his lustre.* See under Sukeśa.

14) *Artificial Sun.* See under Brahmā, para 13.

15) *The Sun and Karṇa.* See under Karṇa.

16) *The hermit Atri and the Sun.* See under Atri, para 4.

17) *The names of the Sun.* Once the hermit Dhaumya repeated to Dharmaputra the one hundred and eight names of the Sun. Those names are given in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 3.

13) *Other details.*

(i) Once Pāñcālī worshipped the Sun. The Sun created an unseen giant for her protection. (M.B. Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 15, Verse 19).

(ii) Pāñcālī did penance before the Sun and procured the 'Akṣayapātra' (the pot that never became empty). (See under Akṣayapātra).

(iii) The Sun destroys the ungrateful asuras (demons). (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 108, Verse 16).

(iv) There is a story connecting the Sun and the South. In days of old the Sun performed a sacrifice according to the Vedas, and to Kaśyapa who was the ministerial priest, he gave the South as dakṣiṇā (offering). So the south got the name 'Dakṣiṇa'. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 109, Verse 1).

(v) The west is the place where the Sun pours his rays after the end of the day. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 110, Verse 2).

(vi) When Karṇa and Arjuna confronted each other in the battle of Bhārata, the Sun boasted to Indra that Karṇa would come out victorious. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 87, Stanza 57).

(vii) The Sun gave Subrahmaṇya two attendants named Subhrāja and Bhāsvara. (Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 31).

(viii) Once Śiva anointed the Sun as the King of all the planets. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 112, Stanza 31).