

(ix) The Sun once gave Yājñavalkya the boon that he would get knowledge of the Vedas. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 318, Verse 6).

(x) The story of one who had attained the region of the Sun by 'Uñchavṛtti' (Living on the grains fallen on the field) is given in Mahābhārata, Śānti Parva, a few Chapters from 353, as follows :

There was a Brahmin in a place called Mahāpadma on the banks of the Ganges. He wandered here and there for knowledge of Vedas. Once a hermit met him and directed him towards a Nāga named Padmanābha. Padmanābha is the serpent which supports the chariot of the Sun. The Brahmin-hermit started in search of Padmanābha. At last he found out his house. But there was the wife of Padmanābha only. She said that her husband would return within a few days. Accordingly he remained on the banks of the Ganges without any food. Padmanābha returned and both of them met together. The hermit asked the nāga what he should do in order to get merged in God. The Nāga replied that he could become one with God by Uñchavṛtti. The Nāga continued. "The Sun is a god who had invoked into himself a saint who had lived only by the fallen grains in the field. The activities of that Sun are wonderful. The hermits and saints attach themselves to the rays of the Sun as birds attach themselves to the branches of trees. The great storms arising from the Sun spread wide in the sky. I saw once a person sitting inside that Sun who was a wonder of wonders. When that person as shining as the Sun came to him in the noon the Sun embraced him and seated him inside him. I asked him who he was. The Sun replied that he was a person who had attained heaven by Uñchavṛtti." Hearing the advice given by the Nāga, the Brahmin engaged in Uñchavṛtti and attained heaven.

(xi) The Sun gave Subrahmaṇya shining beauty. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 86, Verse 23).

(xii) The Sun gave the hermit Jamadagni an umbrella and slippers. (See under Cherippu).

(xiii) In olden days when a war between the Devas and the Asuras was drawing near, Rāhu wounded the Sun and the moon. Along with that the universe fell in darkness, and the asuras began to destroy the Devas. At this time according to the prayer of the gods the hermit Atri assumed the figure of the Moon and made the Sun as shining as of old. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 156, Stanza 2).

(xiv) The Synonyms of Sun according to the Amarakośa are given below :—

(Sūra, Sūrya, Aryamā, Āditya, Dvadaśātmā, Divākara, Bhāskara, Ahaskara, Bradhna, Prabhākara, Vibhākara, Bhāsvān, Vivasvān, Saptāśva, Haridaśva, Uṣṇaraśmi, Vikartana, Arka, Mārtaṇḍa, Mihira, Aruṇa, Pūṣā, Dyumaṇi, Taraṇi, Mitra, Cītrabhānu, Virocana, Viśvāvasu, Grahapati, Tviṣāmpati, Aharpati, Bhānu, Haiṇsa, Sahasrāmsu, Savitā, Tapanā, Ravi, Padmākṣa, Tejas-āmrāśi, Chāyānātha, Tamisrahā, Karmasākṣi, Jagaccakṣuṣ, Lokabandhu, Trayītanu, Pradyotana, Dinamaṇi, Khadyota, Lokabāndhava, Ina, Bharga, Dhāmanidhi, Amśumālī and Abjinīpati.

SŪRYA II. An asura (demon). It is stated in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, Verse 26, that this asura was the son born to Prajāpati Kaśyapa by his wife Kadrū. The King Darda was the rebirth of this asura.

SŪRYABHĀNU. A gate-keeper of Alakāpurī. A statement occurs in Uttara Rāmāyaṇa, that in the fight between Kubera and Rāvaṇa, this gate-keeper helped Kubera.

SŪRYADATTA. A brother of King Virāṭa. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 31, Stanza 11, that this Sūryadatta was known by the name Śatānīka also. Sūryadatta also took part in the fight following the theft of the cattle of Virāṭa by Duryodhana and others. After killing the hundred warriors in the army of Trigarta, this Sūryadatta entered into the midst of the enemies and was killed by Droṇa in the battle of Bhārata. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 6, Verse 34).

SŪRYADHVAJA. A King in Ancient India. He was present in the Svayaṁvara marriage of Draupadī. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 185, Stanza 10).

SŪRYAGRAHANA. To know in detail about the view of the Purānas regarding the Solar eclipse, see under Candra IV, Para 4.

SŪRYAKETU. A daitya (demon). Once this daitya conquered the world of the gods and expelled Indra. At that time Purañjaya was the King of Ayodhyā, who was born in the Solar dynasty. Indra requested for his help. Purañjaya agreed to help Indra, on condition that Indra should stand as an ox and that he would sit on the hump of that ox and fight. Accordingly he sat on the 'Kakud' (hump) of the ox and fought in the battle, killed Sūryaketu, and reinstated Indra in his former position. Because he sat on the 'Kakud', Purañjaya got the name Kakutstha. The dynasty of the King came to be called by the name Kākutstha. (Kamba Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddhakāṇḍa).

SŪRYĀKṢA. A King in ancient India. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Stanza 57, that this King was born from a portion of the King Kratha.

SŪRYAMĀSA. A warrior who fought on the side of the Kauravas in the battle of Bhārata Abhimanyu killed him. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 48, Verse 15).

SŪRYANETRA. A bird born in the family of Garuḍa. Mention is made about this bird in Mahābhārata, Udyoga Parva, Chapter 101, Stanza 13.

SŪRYASĀVITRA. An eternal god of offerings to the manes. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 91, Stanza 34).

SŪRYAŚRĪ. An eternal god concerned with offerings to the manes. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 91, Stanza 34).

SŪRYATĪRTHA. An ancient holy place situated in Kurukṣetra. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 88, Stanza 48, that by bathing here and worshipping the manes one may attain the fruits of performing the sacrifice of Agniṣtoma and go to the region of the Sun.

SŪRYAVAMŚA. An important dynasty of ancient Bhārata. It is stated in Devibhāgavata, Skandha 7, as follows about the origin of this Solar dynasty.

The Lord of creation Brahmā originated from the lotus in the navel of Viṣṇu. That Brahmā did penance for ten thousand years and pleased Parāśakti, the great goddess of power, and started creation. First of all he created seven mental sons. Of them Marīci became expert in creation. Prajāpati Kaśyapa the son of Marīci became a greater expert. The Sun is the son of Kaśyapa. Nine sons named Ikṣvāku, Nābhāga, Dhṛṣṭa, Śaryāti, Nariṣyanta, Prāmśu, Nṛga, Diṣṭa, Karūṣa and