

VAIDEHA I. The King of Videha.

VAIDEHA II. See under Varṇa.

VAIDEHA III. Another name of the country of Videha. It has the meaning, that which is in Videha. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 57).

VAIDŪRYAPARVATA. A mountain which stands near Gokarnatīrtha (holy place) in the country of Śūrpāraka (Kerala). Agastya once built a hermitage on this mountain. If one bathes in the river Narmadā, after having visited this Vaidūrya mountain one could attain the holy worlds. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 33, Verse 13).

VAIDYA. One of the sons born to Varuṇa by his wife Sunādevī. His sons Ghr̥ṇi and Muni fought with each other and died. (Vāyu: 84: 6-8).

VAIHĀYASA. A cavity or a sacred pit (kuṇḍa) situated near the hermitage of Naranārāyaṇas. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 127, Stanza 3).

VAIJAYANTA I. The capital city of an asura named Timidhvaja, otherwise called Śambara. (See under Timidhvaja).

VAIJAYANTA II. Name of the flag of Indra. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 42, Stanza 8).

VAIJAYANTA III. A mountain standing in the middle of the sea of Milk. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Śānti Parva, Chapter 35, Stanza 9, that Brahmā comes to this mountain daily for devotion and meditation.

VAIJAYANTĪ. Two bells of Airāvata. Indra presented these two bells to Subrahmaṇya, who, in his turn, gave one of them to Viśākha. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 231, Stanza 13).

VAIKARTANA. Another name of Karṇa.

VAIKHĀNASĀ. A philosopher. He had written a book known as 'Vaikhānasadharmapraśna'. Matters concerning the duties of a forest-house-holder, occupation suitable for children born of wedlocks which are in accordance with natural law as well as contrary to the natural order, etc. are dealt with in detail, in this book. A large number of quotations from Vaikhānasadharmapraśna occur in Manusmṛti.

VAIKHĀNASĀS. A group of hermits of the Vedic age. There were hundred hermits in this group. (R̥gveda, 9: 66). They were born from the finger nail of Brahmā. (Taittiriya, 1, 23).

VAIKUṆṬHA I. The dwelling place of Mahāviṣṇu.

VAIKUṆṬHA II. Another name of Mahāviṣṇu. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Śānti Parva, Chapter 342, Stanza 80, that when Viṣṇu made creation with the five elements, his powers did not have any hindrance (Kuṅṭhita) and so he got the name Vaikuṅṭha.

VAIKUṆṬHA III. A Brahmin saint who lived in the Tretāyuga. The living things got deliverance from sin, the moment they came into contact with him. This power of Vaikuṅṭha to give living things deliverance, is mentioned in Padma Purāṇa, Brahma khaṇḍa, Chapter 3, as follows:

Vaikuṅṭha once lighted a ghee-lamp in the presence of Viṣṇu in Kārttika and returned home. At that time a rat came there and began to drink the ghee. Then the lamp blazed into a flame. The rat was terrified at this, and ran away. But by the grace of Viṣṇu the rat got deliverance from all its sins.

That rat was killed by snake-bite. The men of Yama came with ropes. Instantly the messengers of Viṣṇu also came on Garuḍa. Yama's men got afraid of

Viṣṇu's messengers and humbly asked them: "For what goodness of him are you taking this great sinner to Vaikuṅṭha?" They replied: "He had blazed a lamp before the presence of Viṣṇu. That act has earned for him a place in Vaikuṅṭha. The goodness earned by lighting a lamp with devotion and love in Kārttika, could be described only by Mukunda." After that the rat was taken to Vaikuṅṭha.

VAIMĀNIKA. A holy place. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 25, Stanza 23, that those who bathe in this holy place could freely walk about in the world of the celestial maids.

VAIMITRĀ. One of the Saptamātṛs (seven mothers). They are Vaimitrā, Kākī, Halimā, Mālinī, Bṛhadā, Āryā and Palālā. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 228, Stanza 10).

VAINATEYA I. One of the prominent sons of Garuḍa. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 101, Stanza 10).

VAINATEYA II. Son of Vinatā. (Garuḍa).

VAINYA. Another name of emperor Pṛthu. (See under Pṛthu).

VAIRĀJA One of the Sapta Pitṛs (Seven Manes). The Sapta Pitṛs are, Vairāja, Agniṣvāta, Somapā; Gārhapatya, Ekaśṛṅga, Caturveda and Kala. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 11, Stanza 46).

VAIRĀMAS. A caste of people in Ancient India. The people of this caste gave Dharmaputra, various kinds of jewels and other costly things as presents and then attended the Rājasūya of the Pāṇḍavas. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 51, Verse 12).

VAIRĀTA. One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 96, Verse 26, that this Vairāta was killed in the battle of Bhārata by Bhimasena.

VAIŚĀKHA. A month. This month comes after the month of Caitra and before the month of Jyeṣṭha. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 106, that by observing the fast of taking food only once, daily in this month, one could acquire prominence among kinsmen and people of one's own caste.

VAIŚĀKHAVRATA. See under Dhṛṣṭabuddhi.

VAIŚĀLĀ. A city. This city was founded by King Viśāla, who belonged to the dynasty of Diṣṭa. Because Nābhāga, the son of Diṣṭa had married a woman from Vaiśya caste, he also became Vaiśya. The writings of Vatsa, the son of Bhalandana of this family, are included in the R̥gveda. The differentiation of castes was not so strict in those days as today. It is not known in what country Diṣṭa and his people Anagas lived. The Kings Karandhama, his son Avikṣit and his son Marutta of this dynasty were great and valiant. Marutta had performed both horse sacrifice (aśvamedha) and imperial consecration (Rājasūya). To Tṛṇabindu, who was in the tenth generation from Marutta, a son was born named Viśāla. This Viśāla founded a city and lived there. That city is called Vaiśālā. Many of the scholars are of opinion that this city Vaiśālā is the same as Ujjayinī. It is stated in Mahābhārata that Somadatta of the seventh generation from Viśāla had performed ten aśvamedhas (horse-sacrifices).

VAIŚĀLĀKṢA. The Law of conduct of Brahmā. Since Śiva, who is Viśālākṣa (far-sighted) had collected and abridged them, it came to be called Vaiśālākṣa. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 59, Stanza 82).