

VĀJAŚRAVAS. A priest who was the son of Naciketas. (Bṛhadāraṇyaka Upaniṣad, 6-4-33).

VAJRA I. Son of Viśvāmītra. He was an expounder of Vedas. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 4, Stanza 52).

VAJRA II. The son of Aniruddha, who was the grandson of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Mausala Parva, Chapter 7, Stanza 72, that after the extermination of the Yādavas by the mausala fight (the fight with grass grown from the filings of the iron-pestle), Arjuna anointed Vajra as the King of the remaining Yādavas. When the Pāṇḍavas began the Mahāprasthāna (the great departure), Yudhiṣṭhira called Subhadrā and instructed her to look after Vajra with particular care. (M.B. Mahā Prasthāna Parva, Chapter 1, Stanza 8).

VAJRABĀHU I. A notorious asura. Vajrabāhu was born of a Vidyādhara-damsel named Cañcalākṣī, when she was raped by the asura Sahasramukha. This Vajrabāhu did penance before Śiva and obtained Pāśu-patāstra (a divine arrow) and an impenetrable armour. After this, he caught hold of Indra and bound him. Subrahmaṇya rescued Indra and killed Vajrabāhu. (Kamba Rāmāyaṇa, Uttara Kāṇḍa).

VAJRABĀHU II. A monkey. With other monkeys Vajrabāhu got on the body of Kumbhakarna and scratched his face and body and did much harm in the battle between Rāma and Rāvaṇa. Kumbhakarna caught hold of them and ate them. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 287, Stanza 67).

VAJRADAMŚTRA I. A ferocious giant who was a follower of Rāvaṇa. In Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa, Sarga 54, mention is made that this giant was killed by Aṅgda in the Rāma-Rāvaṇa battle.

VAJRADAMŚTRA II. A captain of the army of Tripurāsura. It is stated in Gaṇeśa Purāṇa that Tripurāsura gave his captain clothes, villages etc. as presents, for bringing Pātāla (netherworld) under control.

VAJRADATTA. The King of Prāgjyotiṣapura. He was the son of Bhagadatta. He attacked the neighbouring Kings and defeated them. He caught hold of the sacrificial horse of Yudhiṣṭhira, led by Arjuna, who fought with Vajradatta for three days and defeated him. (M.B. Aśvamedha Parva, Chapters 65 and 74).

VAJRAJVĀLĀ. A daughter of Mahābali. This Vajrajvālā was the wife of Kumbhakarna. (Uttara Rāmāyaṇa).

VAJRAKAṆṬAKAŚĀLI. A hell. (See the part Naraka under Kāla).

VAJRAMUŚŪTI. A giant. Vajramuṣṭi was the son born to Mālyavān of his wife Sundarī. Vajramuṣṭi had six brothers named Virūpākṣa, Durmukha, Suptaghna, Yajñakośa, Matta and Unmatta and a sister named Nalā. (Uttara Rāmāyaṇa).

VAJRANĀBHA I. A warrior of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 63).

VAJRANĀBHA II. A King of the line of Śrī Rāma. The genealogy is the following. Śrī Rāma-Kuśa-Aditi-Niśadha-Nabhas-Puṇḍarīka-Kṣemadhanvā - Devānīka - Rkṣa-Pāriyātra-Bala-Vinda-Vajranābha. Khagaṇa was the son of Vajranābha. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

VAJRANĀBHA III. An asura. Prabhāvatī whom Pradyumna the son of Śrī Kṛṣṇa married, was the daughter of this asura. (For details see under Prabhāvatī).

VAJRANĀBHA IV. A King who ruled over Mathurā. He was a friend of Parīkṣit. At the request of hermit

Śāṅḍilya, Uddhava talked to Vajranābha about the greatness of Bhāgavata.

VAJRĀṄGA. An asura. This asura was born to Kaśyapa of his wife Diti. Tārakāsura was born to Vajrāṅga of his wife Varāṅgī (For details see under Pārvatī, Para 2)

VAJRAPRĀSĀDA. A house in heaven. Maṇidvīpa is situated above the world of Brahmā. This is an island in the sea of Amṛta with an area of several yojanas. All the sand particles on the shore of the sea of Amṛta are jewels. Beyond the trees of jewels standing on the sea-coast, there is an iron-wall with four towers. Those who come here to see Devī (goddess) should get down from their vehicles here. Beyond this wall of iron, there are seven walls of bronze, copper, lead, brass, a mixture of five metals, silver and gold. They are called Saptāśālas. Between the walls there are several parks such as Kalpavātīkā, Santānavātīkā, Haricandanavṛkṣavātīkā, Mandāravātīkā, Pārijātavātīkā, Kadambavātī etc. On passing the seven walls, several houses are seen. They are topaz-house, jacinth-house, beryl-house, diamond-house, chrysoprase-house, sapphire-house, ruby-house, emerald-house, etc. (Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 11).

VAJRAŚIRṢA. A son of hermit Bhṛgu. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 35, Stanza 125, that hermit Bhṛgu had seven sons named Cyavana, Vajraśirṣa, Śuci, Aurva, Śukra, Vareṇya and Savana.

VAJRAVEGA. A giant who was the brother of Khara, Dūṣaṇa and Tri iras. In the battle between Rāma and Rāvaṇa Vajravega stood as the attendant of Kumbhakarna and fought with Śrī Rāma and was killed by Hanūmān. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 287).

VAJRAVIṢKAMBHA. A child of Garuḍa. (Mahābhārata, Udyoga Parva, Chapter 101, Stanza 10).

VAJRĀYUDHA (Thunderbolt). The famous weapon of Indra.

1) *The making of this weapon.* In olden days a fierce asura named Vṛtra was born. The Kālakeyas and many other asuras became his followers. They began to create havoc in the world, and cause harm to the Devas. At last under the leadership of Indra, the Devas went to Brahmā and informed him of their grievances and requested for advice as to the way of killing Vṛtra. Brahmā told them that only with a weapon made of the bone of the hermit Dadhīca, could Vṛtrāsura be killed. The Devas went to the bank of the river Śoṇa and saw the hermit Dadhīca, who was the foremost of munificent men, doing penance there. Indra told him the purpose of their visit. He told the Devas to take his bone, if it was useful to them. Saying this he forsook his body. The Devas took the bones of the hermit and gave them to Viśvakarmā who made a powerful weapon with them and gave that to Indra. They named the weapon the 'thunderbolt'. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 100).

2) *The face of Subrahmaṇya was cut.* Once Indra was defeated by Narakāsura. He went to the Himālayas and hid himself there. Unable to see their King Indra, the devas went to Subrahmaṇya. When Indra knew this, he thought that Subrahmaṇya had taken possession of the world of the gods. So he came and fought with Subrahmaṇya. The thunderbolt of Indra touched the face of Subrahmaṇya and wounded him. From the blood which flowed from the face of Subrahmaṇya two noble men appeared who eventually became warriors of Subrahmaṇya. (Kathāsaritsāgara, Lāvāṇakalambaka, Taraṅga 6).