

shape of Trivikrama to measure each of the three worlds with a foot. In two steps he measured all the worlds. Vāmana whose body was bigger than Mahāmeru became angry when he did not see place to measure the third step, and fell on Dhundhu. By this heavy fall there appeared a great cavity thirty thousand yojanas deep. Bhagavān Viṣṇu took the asura Dhundhu and threw him into that deep pit with a mighty force, and by a shower of dust he filled the cavity.

Indra with the Devas occupied the world of Gods. Leaving the asura King in the sea of dust, Bhagavān jumped into the river Kālindī and disappeared. (Padma Purāṇa, Chapter 78).

VĀMANA II. One of the eight elephants supporting the universe. This elephant was one of the four sons of Irāvati. Airāvata, Supratika and Añjana were the other three. (Brahmaṇḍa Purāṇa, 3 : 7 : 292). This Vāmana was the conveyance of a famous giant in the army of Ghaṭotkaca during the battle of Bhārata. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 60, Verse 56).

VĀMANA III. A holy place situated on the borders of Kurukṣetra. By bathing in the particular spot called Viṣṇupāda, in this holy place and worshipping Vāmana, one could enter the world of Viṣṇu. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 86, Stanza 103).

VĀMANA IV. A holy place. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 84, Stanza 13, that those who worship Hari (Viṣṇu) in this place will never become miserable.

VĀMANA V. A mountain in the Krauñca Island. (Mahābhārata, Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 12).

VĀMANABHAṬṬABĀṆA. A great Sanskrit poet. It is believed that he lived in the 15th century. He has written several poems and plays. His poetic works are 'Nalābhyaḍaya' and 'Raghunāthacarita'. The former consists of eight Kāṇḍas and the latter, thirty Kāṇḍas. It is stated that Vāmanabhaṭṭabāṇa was the teacher of Vidyāraṇya. Besides these two major works, he had written several poems and dramas. Imitating the poem 'Meghasandēśa' of Kālidāsa, he had written a poetic work of the same type called 'Hamsasandēśa'. A minor Drama called Śrīgārabhūṣaṇa was written by this Vāmana. It is said that this drama was acted at Vijayanagara. The two plays, named—Pārvatipariṇaya and 'Kanakarekhā' were also written by the same poet.

VĀMANAPURĀṆA. One of the eighteen Purāṇas. (See under Purāṇa).

VĀMANIKĀ. An attendant of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 46, Stanza 23).

VĀMKṢU. A river which is famous in the Purāṇas. The low-caste people who lived on the basin of this river, came to the Rājasūya (imperial consecration) of Yudhiṣṭhira. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 51, Stanza 17).

VĀMŚĀ. A daughter born to Prajāpati Kaśyapa by his wife Pradhā. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, Stanza 45).

VĀMŚAGULMA. A holy bath. The rivers Śoṇa and Narmadā start from this bath. In Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 85, Stanza 9, it is stated that by visiting this holy bath one could obtain the fruits of performing a horse-sacrifice.

VĀMŚAMŪLAKA. A holy place situated on the boundary of Kurukṣetra. It is stated in Mahābhārata,

Vana Parva, Chapter 83, Stanza 41, that if a bath is taken in this holy place one could bring about the uplift of one's race.

VĀMŚĀVALĪ. (GENEALOGY). The genealogy of the characters in the Purāṇas is given separately at the end of this book.

VĀMYA. Name of the horse of the hermit Vāmadeva. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 122, Stanza 41).

VANAPARVA. An important Parva in Mahābhārata.

VĀNAPRASTHA. (House-holder in the forest). One of the four stages of life. (See under Āśrama).

VĀNARA (MONKEY). Monkeys are given a prominent place in the Purāṇas. Considering them as born in the family of Hanūmān, an ardent devotee of Śrī Rāma, some worship monkeys. It is mentioned in Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa that the monkeys got a prominent place first among the gods and spirits. It is stated in Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Kiṣkindhā Kāṇḍa, Sarga 33, that the leaders of the monkeys were Bāli, Sugrīva, Aṅgada, Mainda, Gavaya, Dvidida, Gavākṣa, Gaja, Śarabha, Sūryākṣa, Hanūmān, Vidyunmālī, Virabāhu, Subāhu, Nala, Kumuda, Jāmbavān, Tāra, Supāṭala, Sunetra, Nila and Dadhivaktra.

The social life of the monkeys, is described as follows in the Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Kiṣkindhā Kāṇḍa, Sarga 33. "Mahendra mountain, the Himālayas, the Vindhya mountain, the peaks of Kailāsa and Śveta mountain, Mandara mountain etc. are the places mostly inhabited by monkeys. On the mountains shining like the rising sun, on the east of the western ocean also monkeys live. The Monkeys which inhabit black soil are blue in colour. Monkeys which live in red arsenic caves are yellow in colour. Those which live in Mahā Meru and Dhūmra (smoky) mountain have the colour of the rising sun and are drunkards."

VANASPATI I. Those trees which produce fruits without flowering are called Vanaspati according to Manusmṛti Chapter 1, Stanza 47. Atti (fig tree) is an example. (Apuṣpāḥ phalavanto ye te vanaspatayas smṛtāḥ).

VANASPATI II. One of the seven sons of the King Ghṛtaprṣṭha. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 5).

VĀNAVA. A country famous in the Purāṇas. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 54).

VĀNAVĀSIKĀ. A country in ancient India. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 58).

VĀNĀYU I. A son born to Prajāpati Kaśyapa of his wife Danu. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva Chapter 65, Stanza 25, that he was the most prominent of the ten sons of Danu.

VĀNĀYU II. A son born to Urvaśī from Purūravas. The sons of Urvaśī were Āyus, Dhīmān, Amāvasu, Drḍhāyu Śatāyu and Vanāyu. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 75, Stanza 25).

VĀNĀYU III. A country in ancient India. Mention is made about this country in Mahābhārata, Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Verse 56.

VĀŅCULA. A bird. The cry of this bird, is believed to forebode victory. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Araṇya Kāṇḍa Sarga 69, Stanza 22).

VANDANA. A hermit mentioned in Ṛgveda. Once this hermit was pushed into a well by Āsuras. But he was saved by the Aśvinidevas. (Ṛgveda, Maṇḍala 1, Anuvāka 1, Sūkta 116).

VANDANĀ. A river famous in the Purāṇas. (Mahābhārata, Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 18).