

had to add the word Śarmā, Kṣatriyas the word Varmā Vaiśyas the word Gupta and Śūdras the word Dāsa to their names according to rules. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 153).

**VARMACIT.** A King of the Lunar dynasty. (Bhāgavata Skandha 9).

**VARṆA.** Caste. The four castes of Brāhmaṇa, Kṣatriya, Vaiśya and Śūdra and the eleven castes produced by the intermingling of these four castes, only these are taken into account when we speak of Varṇa. To understand about the four castes of Brāhmaṇa, Kṣatriya, Vaiśya and Śūdra, see under Cāturvarṇya.

To know about the eleven mixed castes that originated from the four castes, see under Ekādaśasaṅkara Varṇas.

**VARṆASAṅKARA.** See under Ekādaśasaṅkara Varṇas.

**VARṢA I.** The teacher of Vararuci. (For details see under Vararuci).

**VARṢA II.** See under Kālamāna.

**VĀRṢAGANYA.** An ancient hermit. The Gandharva King Viśvāvasu learned about the connection between the individual soul and the Universal soul, from this hermit. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 318, Verse 59).

**VARṢAKETU.** A King of the Pūru dynasty. The father of Varṣaketu was Kṣemaka, and his son was Vipu. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 278).

**VĀRṢNEYA. I.** A charioteer of King Nala. It was Vārṣneya who took the prince Indrasena and princess Indrasenā to Kuṇḍinapura when Nala, after being defeated in the game of dice, went to the forest with Damayantī. After this, Vārṣneya went to Ayodhyā and became the charioteer of King R̥tuparna. Vārṣneya played an important part in finding out Nala. (For more details see under Nala).

**VĀRṢNEYA II.** Another name of Mahāviṣṇu. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 27, Stanza 37).

**VĀRṢNEYA III.** An ancient country. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 51, Stanza 24, that the King of Vārṣneya brought presents to the imperial consecration-sacrifice (Rājasūya) of Yudhiṣṭhira.

**VĀRTA.** A King of ancient India. This King stays in the palace of Yama praising and worshipping him. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 8, Stanza 10).

**VARUṆA I.** One of the eight guardians of the quarters.

1) *Birth.* Varuṇa was the son of Prajāpati, Kaśyapa born of Aditi. He was one of the twelve sons of Aditi. So he is considered to be one of the twelve Ādityas (Sons of Aditi). The twelve Ādityas are Dhātā, Aryaman, Mitra, Sakra, Varuṇa, Amśa, Bhaga, Vivaśvān, Pūṣā, Savitā, Tvaṣṭā and Viṣṇu. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, Stanza 15).

These twelve Ādityas were the twelve Devas (gods) known as Tuṣitas in the Manvantara of Manu Cākṣuṣa. A statement occurs in Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Amśa 1, Chapter 15, that when Vaivasvata Manvantara was about to begin after the end of Cākṣuṣa Manvantara, the famous Tuṣitas united together and took birth as the sons of Kaśyapa.

2) *Kingship of the waters.* In Kṛtayuga the Devas approached Varuṇa and said to him. "You must be the lord of all the waters, as Indra is our protector. You can live in the heart of the ocean. All the rivers in the world, and the ocean which is their husband will obey you. You will wax and wane along with Candra (Moon)." Varuṇa agreed to comply with their request.

All of them anointed Varuṇa as the King of the waters. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 47).

3) *The Guardian of the quarter west.* Brahmā appointed Varuṇa as the guardian of the western zone. Vaiśravaṇa once did penance before Brahmā, and when Brahmā appeared before him, he made a request that he should be appointed as one of the guardians of the quarters. Brahmā replied. "I have already selected Indra, Varuṇa and Yama as guardians of the points. I was thinking who, the fourth, should be, when you came. So from this day onwards, Indra shall be the guardian of the East, Yama that of the South, Varuṇa, that of the West and you Vaiśravaṇa shall be the guardian of the North." After saying this, Brahmā disappeared. Thus Varuṇa became the guardian of the West. (Uttara Rāmāyaṇa).

4) *Family.* Varuṇa had several wives and children. Prominent among them were Gaurī and Varuṇānī. Mention is made about the sons Suṣeṇa, Vandī and Vasīṣṭha and daughter Vārunī. Cārṣaṇī was another wife of Varuṇa. Prajāpati Bhr̥gu, who died in the sacrifice of Dakṣa took birth as the son of Varuṇa and Cārṣaṇī. Devī Jyesthā, the daughter of Priest Śukra was another wife of Varuṇa. The children of Jyesthā were Bala, Surā the Suranandinī and Adharmaka the destroyer of the elements. The semen of Varuṇa fell on Valmīka (White-ant-hill) from which the great hermit Vālmiki was born. Besides them, Dakṣasāvārṇī, the ninth Manu was the son of Varuṇa. Puṣkara was another son of Varuṇa. The handsome Puṣkara was received as husband by the daughter of Soma (Candra). Vandī, who was defeated by the hermit Aṣṭāvakra at the palace of Janaka was the son of Varuṇa. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 117, Stanza 9; Ādi Parva, Chapter 66, Stanza 52; Ādi Parva, Chapter 99, Stanza 5; Vana Parva, Chapter 134, Stanza 24; Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bālakāṇḍa Sarga 17, Stanza 13; Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bālakāṇḍa, Sarga 46, Stanza 36).

5) *Carrying away Utathya's wife.* Bhadrā, the daughter of Soma (Moon) was extremely beautiful. Soma gave her in marriage to the hermit Utathya. Varuṇa carried her away. Utathya got angry and drank up the ocean dry. Varuṇa returned Bhadrā to Utathya. (For further details see under Utathya).

6) *Theft of Varuṇa's cow by Kaśyapa.* Kaśyapa once decided to perform a sacrifice. He made all preparations. But he did not get the required cow at the stipulated time. So he got the Homadhenu of Varuṇa by theft and began to perform the yāga (sacrifice). Varuṇa knew this. Instantly he went to Kaśyapa and demanded his cow. But Kaśyapa refused to return the cow. Varuṇa complained to Brahmā, who sent for Kaśyapa and asked him about the cow and both Brahmā and Varuṇa cursed Kaśyapa that he who had taken the cow by stealth would take birth as a cowherd in Ambāḍī. (For further details see under Kaśyapa and Nandagopa).

7) *Cursing Hariścandra.* For detailed story see under Hariścandra.

8) *Other information.*

(i) The Vaiṣṇava bow received by Śrī Rāma from Bhārgava Rāma, was given to Varuṇa. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bāla Kāṇḍa, Sarga 77, Stanza 1).

(ii) The capital city of Varuṇa one of the eight guard-