

ians of the universe was called Śraddhāvati. (Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 8).

(iii) At the time of the burning of Khāṇḍava forest Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna helped Agni (Fire). Agni prayed to Varuṇa to supply Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna with weapons so that they might fight with Indra. Varuṇa appeared and gave Arjuna the bow 'Gāṇḍīva', a quiver which would never become empty of arrows and a banner with the emblem of a monkey depicted on it. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapters 234 and 237).

(iv) The image of Varuṇa should be dedicated in temples as sitting on a horned shark with a rope in hand. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 51).

(v) Once Varuṇa gave exhortations to Puṣkara, which he in his turn gave to Paraśurāma. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 151).

(vi) It is stated in Ṛgveda, Maṇḍala 1, Anuvāka 2, Sūkta 2, that Varuṇa and Mitra are the Deities of rain.

(vii) Once the King Marutta performed a sacrifice at which the guardians of the eight points were present. Rāvaṇa came to the sacrifice and tried to do harm to the hermits. At the beginning of the attack, the guardians of the points assumed forms of various creatures and escaped from the place. Varuṇa escaped in the form of a swan. (Uttara Rāmāyaṇa).

(viii) Rāvaṇa defeated Yama. On his return he defeated the Uragas (serpents) of Pātāla (Nether world). After this, he challenged Varuṇa, who came out with his sons and army and fought with Rāvaṇa, who won the battle. (Uttara Rāmāyaṇa).

(ix) Varuṇa is a member of the assembly of Brahmā. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 117, Stanza 51).

(x) When Arjuna went to the world of Devas, Varuṇa gave him the weapon Pāśa (rope). (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 41, Stanza 27).

(xi) Indra, Agni, Yama and Varuṇa tested Nala and finally gave him blessings. (For details see under Damayantī).

(xii) Once Varuṇa performed penance along with other gods in Viśākhayūpa. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 90, Stanza 16).

(xiii) Varuṇa once gave Ṛcika thousand black-eared horses. (For further details see under Ṛcika).

(xiv) At the coronation of Śrī Rāma, Varuṇa made his appearance and proclaimed that Sītā was chaste and pure. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 291, Stanza 29).

(xv) Varuṇa had the bow Gāṇḍīva in his possession for hundred years. (M.B. Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 43, Stanza 6).

(xvi) Once Śrī Kṛṣṇa defeated Varuṇa. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 130, Stanza 49).

(xvii) Parṇāśā, the mother of the King Śrutāyudha once worshipped Varuṇa with vow and fast and Varuṇa gave her boons and a club to Śrutāyudha. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 92).

(xviii) Varuṇa gave Subrahmaṇya two followers named Yama and Atiyama. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 45).

(xix) Besides Varuṇa gave Subrahmaṇya an elephant. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 46, Stanza 52).

(xx) Once Varuṇa performed a Rājasūya (royal consecration sacrifice) at Yamunātirtha. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 49, Stanza 11).

(xxi) When Balabhadra Rāma died and his soul went

to Pātāla (under world), there was Varuṇa also among those who came to receive him. (M.B. Mausala Parva, Chapter 4, Stanza 16).

(xxii) At the time of his great departure, Arjuna threw the bow Gāṇḍīva and the arrows over the sea to return them to Varuṇa. (M.B. Mahāprasthāna Parva, Chapter 1, Stanza 41).

(xxiii) Words such as Aditi-putra, Āditya, Ambupa, Ambupati, Amburāt, Ambviśa, Apāmpati, Devadeva, Gopati, Jalādhīpa, Jalēśvara, Lokapāla, Salilarāja, Salileśa, Udakapati, Vāripa, Yādasāmbhartā and so on have been used as synonyms of Varuṇa in Mahābhārata.

VARUṆA II. A Deva Gandharva. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, Stanza 42, that this Devagandharva was the son of Prajāpati Kaśyapa born of his wife Muni.

VĀRUṆA (S). The sons of Aṅgiras. (See under Payasya).

VARUṆADVĪPA. An island famous in the Purāṇas. Mention is made about this island in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 33.

VĀRUṆAHRADA. A lake of God Varuṇa. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Udyoga Parva, Chapter 98, Stanza 18, that the god Agni (Fire) always shines in this lake.

VARUṆĀNĪ. A wife of Varuṇa.

VARUṆASROTASA. A holy place situated in Māhara forest in South India. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 88, Stanza 10).

VĀRUṆATĪRTHA. A holy place at the mouth of river Indus. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 82, Stanza 63, that those who bathe in this place will be filled with radiance and will enter the world of Varuṇa.

VĀRUṆĪ I. (Vāruṇibhṛgu). The hermit Bhṛgu having died in the sacrifice of Dakṣa, took birth again from the sacrifice of Varuṇa. At this stage the name of Bhṛgu was Vāruṇibhṛgu. (For further details see under Bhṛgu I).

VĀRUṆĪ II. The daughter of Varuṇa. When the Devas and the Asuras churned the sea of Milk, four damsels were caused to arise by Varuṇa and holy pot of Ambrosia, by Soma. The four damsels were Sulakṣmī, Vāruṇī, Kāmōdā and Śreṣṭhā, of whom Vāruṇī was married by Devas. (Padma Purāṇa, Bhūmi Khaṇḍa, Chapter 119).

VĀRUṆĪTĪRTHA. A holy place situated in Pāṇḍya-deśa in South India. (Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 88, Stanza 13).

VARŪTHA. A King of the family of Aṅga. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 277).

VARŪTHINĪ. A celestial maid. This celestial maid performed a dance in the palace of Indra, in honour of the visit of Arjuna. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 43, Stanza 29).

VAŚĀ. A hermit who is praised in the Ṛgveda. (Ṛgveda, Maṇḍala 1, Sūkta 116).

VĀSANĀ. Wife of the Vasu named Arka. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 6).

VASANTAKA. A person in the story of Udayana. (See under Udayana).

VAŚĀTALA. A country in India famous in the Purāṇas. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva,