

1) *Genealogy.* See under Kṛṣṇa.

2) *Previous birth and current birth.* Vasudeva was the rebirth of Prajāpati Kaśyapa. Aditi and Surasā, the wives of Kaśyapa took birth as Devakī and Rohiṇī respectively. (For details see under Kaśyapa).

3) *Marriage and Family.* Rohiṇī, the wife of Vasudeva, gave birth to Balarāma, the fighter Sāraṇa, Durdhara, Dama, Piṇḍāraka and Mahāhanu. Of Devakī who was also called Māyā and Amāvāsī, the younger son Kṛṣṇa and his beautiful sister Subhadrā were born. Vijaya, Rocamāna, Vardhamāna and Devala were sons born by Upadevī. The two sons Agāvaha and Mandaga, otherwise called Angada were born of Vṛkadevī. Revanta who could not be defeated in battle, was born from Saptamidevī. The first son of Vasudeva was Kauśika, whose birth was from a Vaiśya woman called Śraddhā Devī when Vasudeva was travelling in the forest. Kapila, a mighty son was born by the queen Śrutandharā. Saubhadra head of the archers and Abhava were born by his wife Janā. (Padma Purāṇa, P. 1314).

4) *Other details.*

(i) Vasudeva was the son of Śūrasena, and the husband of Devakī, the father of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, the brother of Kuntī, and the minister of Ugrasena. It was Vasudeva who sent the priest Kaśyapa to Śataśṛṅga to perform the purification ceremonies such as naming etc. of the Pāṇḍavas. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 123, Dākṣiṇātyapāṭha).

(ii) After the Bhārata-battle, Vasudeva asked Śrī Kṛṣṇa and learned from him the detailed news about the battle. (Aśvamedha Parva, Chapter 60).

(iii) Vasudeva fell into a swoon when he heard that Subhadrā had become unconscious. (M.B. Aśvamedha Parva, Chapter 61, Stanza 5).

(iv) The ceremony of offering to the manes (Śrāddha) of Abhimanyu was performed by Vasudeva. (M.B. Aśvamedha Parva, Chapter 62, Stanza 1).

(v) When the Yādavas fought among themselves after drinking liquor, Śrī Kṛṣṇa went to Dvārakā and visited Vasudeva, and requested him to protect his wives who were awaiting Arjuna. Then after kissing the feet of Vasudeva, Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Balabhadra Rāma went to do penance. (M.B. Mausala Parva, Chapter 4, Stanza 8).

(vi) When the dynasty of Vṛṣṇi was completely destroyed Vasudeva thinking about the Supreme soul in his heart forsook his body. (M.B. Mausala Parva, Chapter 7, Stanza 15).

(vii) Arjuna performed the funeral rites of Vasudeva and aided his four wives to enter the funeral pyre. (M.B. Mausala Parva, Chapter 7, Stanza 19).

(viii) Vasudeva entered heaven and took his place among Viśvadevas (gods concerned with offering to the manes). (M.B. Svargārohaṇa Parva, Chapter 5, Stanza 17).

(ix) The synonyms of Vasudeva, used in Mahābhārata are Ānakadundubhi, Śauri, Śūraputra, Śūrasūnu, Yadūdvaḥ and so on.

VĀSUDEVABHAṬṬATIRI. A Sanskrit poet of Kerala. Vāsudevabhāṭṭatīri was a poet who used alliteration abundantly. His important works are 'Yudhiṣṭhiravijaya, Tripuradahana Śaurikathā, Vāsudeva Vijaya, Gajendramokṣa, Nalodaya etc.

VASUDHĀ. Daughter of Narmadā, a Gandharva woman. Narmadā had three daughters Sundarī, Ketu-

matī and Vasudhā. (For more details see under Puṣpotkaṭā).

VASUDHĀRĀ. A holy place. Those who visit this place could enjoy the fruits of performing horse-sacrifice. If one gives offering to the manes after getting oneself purified by bathing in this holy tīrtha (bath), one will attain the world of Viṣṇu. There is a lake of the Aṣṭavasus (eight Vasus) in this place. By bathing there, one could become the subject of the love and regard of the eight Vasus. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 82, Stanza 63).

VASUHOMA. A King of the country of Aṅga. Once he gave advice to Māndhātā on righteousness. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 122, Stanza 1).

VASUJYEṢṬHA. A King. This King was the son of Puṣyamitra. (Matsya Purāṇa, 272, 28).

VĀSUKĪ. One of the famous Nāgas (serpents).

1) *Birth.* The uragas and nāgas (serpents) were born to Prajāpati Kaśyapa by his wife Kadrū. Vāsukī, the eldest son of Kadrū spent his childhood with his parents.

2) *Difference of opinion.* Vinatā and Kadrū staked on the colour of the tail of Uccaiśśravas (A horse obtained at the churning of the sea of Milk. To win the stake, Kadrū asked her sons to hang on the tail of Uccaiśśravas as black hairs. But the truthful Vāsukī was not prepared to do so. Kadrū cursed Vāsukī and the others who sided with him. From that day onwards Vāsukī and those who were cursed, separated from their mother and formed into a serpent group. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapters 37 and 48).

3) *The length of Vāsukī.* The Devas and the asuras decided to get Amṛta (Ambrosia—the celestial honey of immortality) by churning the sea of milk. The Devas went to bring Mandara-mountain, to be used as the churning rod. Their attempt was futile. The asuras made a trial with the same result. The Bhūtagaṇas (Guards) of Śiva also made a vain attempt. On the instruction of Viṣṇu, Garuḍa went and brought the mountain as easily as an eagle takes away a frog. Now Vāsukī should be brought. The Devas and Gandharvas failed in that attempt also. Garuḍa who was haughty of his strength and speed, went to the city of the nāgas (serpents) and requested Vāsukī to come to the sea of Milk. Vāsukī replied that if the matter was so urgent he had no objection for being carried to that place. He took the middle part of Vāsukī in his beak and flew up higher and higher and reached beyond the horizon. Still the lower half of Vāsukī was lying on the ground. So he took Vāsukī in his beak as folded in two. Still the result was the same. Garuḍa became aware of the impossibility of carrying Vāsukī and returned, ashamed and disappointed. Viṣṇu rebuked him for his arrogance. After this, Śiva stretched his hand to Pātāla. Vāsukī became a small bangle on that hand. Thus Vāsukī was brought to the shore of the sea of Milk. (Kamba Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa).

4) *Other details.*

(i) For the safety and protection of the Nāgas (serpents) Vāsukī gave his sister Jaratkāru as wife to the hermit Jaratkāru. (See under Jaratkāru).

(ii) The nāgas anointed Vāsukī as their King. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Dākṣiṇātyapāṭha, Chapter 36).

(iii) When Vāsukī saw the serpents, born of his family, falling into the sacrificial fire of Janamejaya and dying