

VĀTA. One of the Saptarṣis (seven hermits) of the Manvantara (Age of the Manu) of Manu Svārociṣa. In this age of the Manu the Devendra was Vipāścit. The Saptarṣis of that Age of the Manu were Ūrja, Stamba, Prāṇa, Vāta, Vṛṣabha, Niraya and Parivān. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Aṁśa 3, Chapter 1).

VĀTĀDHĀNA. A Kṣatriya King. This King was born from a portion of the asura Krodhavaśa (Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 63, Stanza 67).

VĀTĀDHĀNA(M). A country in ancient India. The people of this country were called the Vāṭadhānas. The following information is available about them from the Mahābhārata.

(i) Nakula defeated the Vāṭadhānas who were Kṣatriyas at the time of his regional conquest. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 32, Stanza 8).

(ii) Once the Kauravas surrounded this country which abounded in wealth and food. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 19, Stanza 31).

(iii) Vāṭadhāna was one of the foremost countries in India. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 47).

(iv) In the Garuḍa Vyūha of the army formed by Bhīṣma, Aśvatthāmā and the Vāṭadhānas stood at the head of disposition, in the Bhārata-Battle. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 27, Stanza 4).

(v) Once Śrī Kṛṣṇa defeated the Vāṭadhānas. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 11, Stanza, 17).

(vi) It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Karṇa Parva, Chapter 73, Stanza 17 that in Bhārata-battle Arjuna destroyed all the armies of the country of Vāṭadhāna.

VĀTĀDHĪPA. A King who is famous in the Purāṇas. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 31, Stanza 15, that this King was subdued by Sahadeva during his southern regional conquest.

VĀTAGHNA. One of Viśvāmītra's sons who were expounders of Vedas. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 4, Stanza 54).

VĀTAJA. A country in Ancient India. (Mahābhārata, Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 45).

VĀTĀPI I. A giant. See under Agastya, Para 5, for the story of how this asura was eaten along with his food by Agastya.

VĀTĀPI II. A notorious asura (demon) born to Prajāpati Kaśyapa by his wife Danu. (Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, Stanza 28).

VĀTARODHA. A hell. For further details see the section Naraka under Kāla.

VĀTASKANDHA. A hermit. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 7, Stanza 14, that he sits in the palace of Indra praising and worshipping him.

VĀTAVEGA I. (VĀYUVEGA). One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 195, that he had been present at the Svayaṁvara (marriage) of Draupadī and in the Karṇa Parva, Chapter 84, Stanza 2, that he was killed by Bhīmasena in the Bhārata-battle.

VĀTAVEGA II. One of the famous sons of Garuḍa. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 101, Stanza 10).

VĀTIKA. A warrior of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 67).

VATSA I. Son of Pratardana the King of Kāśī. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Śānti Parva, Chapter 49, Stanza 79, that the name Vatsa was given to him because he was brought up in his childhood by calves of cows.

VATSA II. A King of the family of Śaryāti. This King was the father of Tālajaṅgha and Hehaya. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 30, Stanza 7).

VATSA III (VATSABHŪMI). A country in ancient India. The following information is given about this country in the Mahābhārata.

(i) Bhīmasena conquered this country during his regional conquest. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 30, Stanza 10).

(ii) Karṇa once brought this country under control. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 254, Stanza 9).

(iii) During the battle of Bhārata, the people of Vatsa were on the side of the Pāṇḍavas. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 53, Stanza 1).

(iv) Deified beings (semigods) and heavenly singers had lived in this country. There is an asylum there for holy men. Ambā, the princess of Kāśī once lived in this hermitage. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 186, Stanza 34).

(v) Ambā became a river and still flows through this country under the name Ambā. (M.B. Udyoga Parva Chapter 186, Stanza 40).

(vi) In the battle of Bhārata, the warriors of Vatsa stood on the left side of the disposition of the army called Krauñcāruṇavyūha, formed by Dhṛṣṭadyumna. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 50, Stanza 53).

VATSALĀ. An attendant of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 72).

VATSANĀBHA. A hermit. Dharma, once took the form of a she-buffalo and saved Vatsanābha from heavy rain. After this he thought that he was an ungrateful man and so he decided to forsake his body. But Dharma dissuaded him from this attempt. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Dākṣiṇātya Pāṭha, Chapter 12).

VATSARA. The younger of the two sons of Dhruva. Utkala, the elder was a man of abstinence. So the younger brother Vatsara became the prince apparent. Vatsara married the princess named Svarvīthī. Six sons named Puṣpārṇa, Tigmaketu, Īśa, Ūrja, Vasu and Jaya were born to them. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 4).

VĀTSYA I. A hermit belonging to the Guruparamparā (the line of teachers). It was this hermit Vātsya who wrote the famous Vātsyāyana Sūtra (the science of Amour). He was one of the guests at the serpent-sacrifice (Sarpasatra) of Janamejaya. (M.B. Ādi Parva Chapter 53, Stanza 9). He visited Bhīṣma who lay on the bed of arrows. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 47, Stanza). See under Guruparamparā.

VĀTSYA II. A country famous in the Purāṇas. This country has the name Vatsa also. (See under Vatsa)

VĀYASAVIDYĀ. The art of making the crow tell the past and foretell the future. (For further details see under Kālakavṛkṣika).

VĀYU I. One of the eight guardians of the world. (Dikpālakas).

1) *General information.* Vāyu was born from the breath of Viśvapuruṣa. (R̥gveda 10, 90). Tvaṣṭā was the son-in-law of Vāyu. The eight dikpālakas are Indra, Vahni (Fire), Yama, Nirrti, Varuṇa, Vāyu, Kubera and Śiva. Vāyu is the guardian of the North West zone. The palace of Bhagavān Vāyu is known as Gandhavatī.

2) *Confrontation with Vāsuki.* Once Vāyu and Vāsuki tried to find out who of the two was mightier, in consequence of which, Trikūṭaparvata, a peak of Mount