

VIDALLA. Minister of the king Dhruvasandhi. (For further details see under Dhruvasandhi).

VIDANĀDA. A king in ancient India. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 182, Stanza 12, that Vidanāda and his son Daṇḍa were present at the Svayaṁvara (marriage) of Draupadī.

VIDARBHA I. A brother of Bharata. It is stated in Bhāgavata, Skandha 5, that Kuśāvarta, Ilāvarta, Brahmāvarta, Āryāvarta, Bhadraketu, Sena, Indraspik, Vidarbha, and so on were brothers of Bharata the son of Ṛṣabha. Nimi was his son.

VIDARBHA II. See under Jyāmagha.

VIDARBHA III. An ancient country in India. The information about this Purāṇically famous country obtained from Mahābhārata, is given below:

(i) Once Sahadeva, during his regional conquest, captured Bhojakata, a part of Vidarbha and expelled the king Bhīsmaka from the country. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 31, Stanza 11).

(ii) By the blessing of hermit Damanaka, three sons, Dama, Dānta and Damana and a daughter, Damayantī, were born to Bhīsmaka the king of Vidarbha. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 58, Stanza 5).

(iii) Having heard about the Svayaṁvara (Bride selecting a suitable husband from the candidates present) of the princess Damayantī of Vidarbha, the gods Indra, Agni, Varuṇa and Yama came to Vidarbha; (See under Damayantī).

(iv) Damayantī is called Vaidarbhī because she was born in Vidarbha. (M. B. Vana Parva, Chapter 55, Stanza 12)

(v) Rukmiṇī, the wife of Śrī Kṛṣṇa, was the daughter of a king of Vidarbha. Bhagavān Śrī Kṛṣṇa carried Rukmiṇī away by force. (M. B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 158, Stanza 13)

VIDEGHA MĀTHAVA A king born of the dynasty of Mathu. There is an interesting story about this king in the Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa. It is as follows.

Videgha put Agni in his mouth and lived without talking, fearing that Agni might jump out. His priest Rahūgaṇa tried to the utmost, but he could not extricate fire from the mouth of the king.

Once by chance the word Ghṛta got out of the mouth of Rahūgaṇa. Instantly the fire in the mouth of the king blazed into a big flame and burst out of the mouth. That fire gradually increased and began to consume the world, Rivers became dry. It seemed that even Videgha and his priest would be burnt to ashes in that blazing fire. At last Videgha got into the river Sadānīrā, which flowed through the boundary of his own kingdom, with the intention of not becoming a prey to the ever-increasing fire. With this the fire abated.

VIDEHA I. Another name of emperor Nimi. (See under Janaka).

VIDEHA II The kingdom of Mithilā. This country which lies on the North East part of India was ruled by Kṣatriya kings of the dynasty of Videha. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 29, that Bhīmasena had during his eastern regional conquest, conquered this country. About this kingdom which is the native country of Sītā, the following information is available in Mahābhārata.

(i) The hermitage of Paraśurāma was on the North of Videha. (M. B. Vana Parva, Chapter 130, Stanza 13).

(ii) The army of Videha attacked Arjuna in the battle of Bhārata. (M. B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 117, Stanza 32).

(iii) Karṇa defeated the Kṣatriya princes of the country of Janaka (M. B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 4, Stanza 6).

(iv) Paraśurāma cut the Kṣatriyas of this country into pieces with his sharp arrows. (M. B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 70, Stanza 11).

(v) This country had been giving tribute to Karṇa. (M. B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 33).

VIDHĀTĀ. A son born to Bhṛgu. By his wife Khyāti two sons Dhātā and Vidhātā and a daughter named Lakṣmī were born to Bhṛgu. Lakṣmī was given in marriage to Viṣṇu. The daughter of Meru, Āyati, was married by Dhātā and Niyati by Vidhātā. The son Mṛkaṇḍu was born to Vidhātā by Niyati. This Mṛkaṇḍu was the father of Mārkaṇḍeya. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Amśa 1, Chapter 10).

The following statements occur about Dhātā and Vidhātā in Mahābhārata.

(i) At Nākaloka (heaven) Dhātā and Vidhātā took the form of women and allowed hermit Uttanika to see them. (M. B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 3, Stanza 166).

(ii) Dhātā and Vidhātā stood above the city of Virāta to see the battle between Arjuna and Kṛpa. (M. B. Virāta Parva, Chapter 56, Stanza 11).

(iii) Dhātā and Vidhātā lived with Manu. (M. B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, Stanza 42).

(iv) Dhātā and Vidhātā gave to Subrahmaṇya two followers named Suvrata and Sukarmā. (M. B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 42).

VIDHAVĀ A woman whose husband is dead. In ancient India, it was ordained how a widow should live. It was allowed for a widow to get a son by her younger brother-in-law to continue the family line in case the death of her husband occurred before the couple had children. The procedure about this is given in Manusmṛti, Chapter 9.

“He who goes to accept the widow with the permission of great people, should besmear his body with ghee and go to her bed in the night in a dark room. She should have only one son in this manner. After she has become pregnant, they should behave to each other as a teacher and a younger brother-in-law.”

VIDHṚTI. Son of Khagaṇa and the father of Hiraṇyānābha. He was a King. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

VIDIŠĀ. A river. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 2, Stanza 12, that this river stays in the palace of Varuṇa serving him.

VIDRĀVAṆA. One of the sons born to Kaśyapa by Manu. (Matsya Purāṇa 6:18).

VIDRUTA. A King born in the family of Yayāti. He was the son of Rucaka. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

VIDULĀ. A heroic Kṣatriya woman of India. In Mahābhārata, Udyoga Parva, there is a story, how this Vidulā sent her son, who had fled from the battle-field because of fear, back to the battlefield again.

The Pāṇḍavas, who had completed forest-life and Pseudonymity successfully and returned to Hastināpura were again deceived and put to shame. Śrī Kṛṣṇa's argument as a mediator was not successful, in the