

cursed her to go and guard the gate tower of Rāvaṇa. Accordingly Vijayalakṣmī guarded the gate of Laṅkā under the name Laṅkākālakṣmī. When she was hit by Hanūmān she obtained her original form and returned to the world of Devas. (See under Laṅkākālakṣmī).

**VIJITĀŚVA.** One of the five sons of emperor Pṛthu. Vijitāśva decided to perform one hundred horse-sacrifices and completed ninety-nine. Seeing this Indra feared that he might be deposed. So he stealthily took away the sacrificial horse of Vijitāśva.

There was a fierce battle between Indra and Vijitāśva in which Indra was defeated, and Vijitāśva recovered the stolen horse from Indra. It was from that day onwards that this son of Pṛthu got the name Vijitāśva. Being pleased with the King at this expert fighting, Devendra taught him the art of vanishing. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 4).

**VIJVALA.** Son of the bird Kuñjara which was a famous scholar. (For further details see under Subāhu, XIV).

**VIKADRU.** A noble Yādava. It was this Vikadru who brought to the notice of Śrī Kṛṣṇa the fact that Jarāsandha had dared to attack Mathurāpurī for the eighteenth time. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 17).

**VIKALPA.** An ancient country of India famous in the Purāṇas. (Mahābhārata, Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 59).

**VIKAṆKATAPARVATA.** A mountain in the vicinity of Mount Meru. (Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 8).

**VIKARṆA I.** One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. The following information is available in Mahābhārata about this valiant fighter.

(i) Vikarṇa, the son of Dhṛtarāṣṭra was one of the eleven mahārathas. (great warriors). (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 63, Stanza 39).

(ii) Among the disciples of Droṇa, who attacked Drupada, Vikarṇa was one. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 137, Stanza 19).

(iii) Vikarṇa was present at the Svayamvara (marriage) of Draupadī (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 185, Stanza 1).

(iv) Vikarṇa was one of those kings who stood silent and sad, being unable to answer the questions put by Draupadī when she was about to be stripped of her clothes. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 68, Stanza 1).

(v) Once Karṇa reviled at Vikarṇa. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 68, Stanza 80).

(vi) At the time of the theft of the cows of king Virāṭa by Duryodhana and his brothers. Vikarṇa fought against Arjuna. (M.B. Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 54, Stanza 9).

(vii) A severe fight followed in which the defeated Vikarṇa fled from the battle-ground. (M.B. Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 54, Stanza 41).

(viii) Hit by the arrow of Arjuna, Vikarṇa was wounded and he fell down from the chariot. (M.B. Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 51, Stanza 41).

(ix) On the first day of the battle of Bhārata, Vikarṇa entered in a combat with Śrutāsoma. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 58).

(x) He fought with Sahadeva. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 71, Stanza 21).

(xi) Abhimanyu defeated Vikarṇa. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 78, Stanza 21).

(xii) Ghaṭotkaca defeated Vikarṇa. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 92, Stanza 36).

(xiii) There was a combat between Nakula and Vikarṇa. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 110, Stanza 11).

(xiv) He fought with Bhīmasena. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 113).

(xv) He fought with Śikhaṇḍi. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 96, Stanza 31).

(xvi) He fought with Nakula and was defeated. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 107, Stanza 30).

(xvii) Bhīmasena killed him. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 137, Stanza 29).

**VIKARṆA II.** A hermit devoted to Śiva. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 14, Stanza 99, that Śiva was pleased with the devotion of this hermit and appearing before him granted him boons.

**VIKARṆA III.** A country of ancient India. The warriors of this country joined the army of Śakuni and fought against the Pāṇḍavas. (Mahābhārata Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 51, Stanza 15).

**VIKARTANA.** A king of the Solar dynasty who was afflicted with leprosy. It is stated in Padma Purāṇa, Uttarakhaṇḍa, Chapter 135, that he got recovery from the disease by bathing in the river Sābhramatī.

**VIKĀṬA I.** A brother of Prahasta. (See under Akampana).

**VIKĀṬA II.** A character in the story of Pañcatantra. (See under Pañcatantra).

**VIKĀṬA III. (VIKĀṬĀNANA).** One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. In the Bhārata-battle, fourteen sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra joined together and wounded Bhīmasena. Vikāṭa was one of them. This Vikāṭa was killed by Bhīmasena. (Mahābhārata, Karṇa Parva, Chapter 51).

**VIKĀṬĀ.** A giantess in the harem of Rāvaṇa. She tried to entice Sitā for Rāvaṇa. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Sundara Kāṇḍa, Sarga 23, Stanza 15).

**VIKĀTHINI.** An attendant of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 46, Stanza 18).

**VIKRAMĀDITYA.** Vikramāditya, who is believed to be one of the mighty emperors of Bhārata, was an extraordinarily wise, righteous and valiant ruler. There are several stories in all the languages of India, prevalent everywhere. They are generally called Vikramāditya stories. Vikramāditya was the son of Mahendrāditya, King of Ujjayinī. Mahendrāditya and his wife Saumyadarśanā were in great distress as they were childless. Sumatī, the Prime Minister, Vajrayudha, the army commander, and Mahīdhara, the priest, were as distressed as the royal couple. The King and the queen engaged themselves in fast and prayer.

In the meanwhile, the Devas found life extremely difficult due to the wicked deeds of the barbarians, and they went to Kailāsa and told Rudradeva of their grievances. They said, "Oh! Lord! All the asuras exterminated by yourself and Mahāviṣṇu, are born on the earth as Barbarians. They commit great sins such as killing the Brahmins, obstructing sacrifices carrying away hermit damsels etc. The sacrificial offerings in the sacred fire with Vedic Mantras by Brahmins, is the food of Devas. Because of the troubles caused by the Barbarians in the earth, the sacrifices are hindered and the Devas are in trouble due to lack of food. So a being, mighty and strong enough to exterminate all the Barbarians on the earth, should take incarnation."

Śiva agreed and sent the devas back to their world. Then he called Mālyavān and told him to take birth as the son of Mahendrāditya in the city of Ujjayinī.