

Dhruva (1)—a son of Uttānapāda and Sunīti (*Bhā. P.* & *Vi. P.*) (*M., Br. & Vā. P.* speak of Sūnṛtā as his mother). A grandson of Svāyambhuva Manu; hated by his father's more beloved wife, Suruci, took leave of his mother to go to the forest; met Nārada and was blessed, advised and initiated by the sage; as a child of five went to Madhuvana on the bank of the Yamunā; continued to meditate on the Lord's glory for a period of 10,000 years, sometime eating roots and fruits, and sometime fasting; sought refuge in Viṣṇu, standing on one foot to the great consternation of gods.¹

Hari appeared before him, and touching his baby cheeks, conferred on him divine speech; his praise of the Lord; assuring him a place in the mansion of the luminaries, Hari asked him to go home and rule righteously which he did for 36,000 years. Dhruva's return was welcomed by the king and his queens; bowed to his parents and embraced Uttāna; was welcomed by the citizens; getting old, the king anointed Dhruva and retired to forest.² Had two queens: one was Bhramī who gave birth to Kalpa and Vatsara; the other Ilā whose son was Utkala. (According to *Br. P.* one wife was Bhūmī who gave birth to Sṛṣṭi and Bhavya; according to *M. P.* Dhanyā, the daughter of Manas was one of his queens and her son was Śiṣṭa.)

Heard the death of his brother Uttama at the hands of a Yakṣa and led an expedition to the city of the Yakṣas: In the war innocents also were killed, whereupon his grand-sire, Manu came to the spot and advised to desist from it, especially as it would irritate Kubera. On this, he met Kubera who praised his valour and his sense of duty and offered some boons. Dhruva asked that he must ever remember the feet of the Lord.³

Ruled the kingdom for 36,000 years, performed *yajña*, appointed his son on the throne and retired to Viśāla (Badarikāśrama). Meditating on the Lord for 3,000 years, was taken to his eternal abode in the world of luminaries