

the bow of Viṣṇu straightened up with a terrific sound. The devas were terror-stricken, the whole universe shook, the earth experienced a convulsion and the oceans too were shaken. Moreover, the head of Viṣṇu was severed from the body, rose high up in the sky and fell into the sea. Brahmā, Śiva and others opened their eyes only to find the body of Viṣṇu lying thus without the head.

This loss of Viṣṇu's head proved to be useful in another way. Now, Hayagrīva, after securing the boon from Brahmā that he would be killed only by one with horse's head, was running rough-shod over the whole earth. The devas cut off the head of a horse and attached it to the trunk of Viṣṇu. Thus Viṣṇu came to life again, and according to his orders the citals gnawed away the cord of Hayagrīva's bow as a result of which he was killed. (Devīmāhātmya, Prathma Skandha).

CITĀYU. A king of the Pūru dynasty. He was the son of Bhadrāśva, who had ten sons called Rkṣāyu, Kṛṣāyu, Sannatāyu, Ghṛtāyu, Citāyu, Sthaṇḍilāyu, Dharmāyu, Sammitāyu, Kṛtāyu and Matināra. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 278).

CITRA I. A son of Dhṛtarāṣṭra killed in war by Bhīmasena. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 136, Verse 20).

CITRA II. A gajarāja (king elephant) with whom Subrahmaṇya, as a child, used to play. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 225, Verse 23).

CITRA III. A hero who fought on the Kaurava side against the Pāṇḍavas. He was killed by Prativindhya. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 14, Verse 32).

CITRA IV. A hero from the Cedi Kingdom who fought on the Pāṇḍava side against the Kauravas. Karṇa killed him. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 56, Verse 46).

CITRĀ. A celestial maiden. When once Aṣṭāvakra went to the court of Kubera this maiden gave a dance in honour of his visit. (Śloka 44, Chapter 14, Anuśāsana Parva).

CITRABĀHU (CITRĀYUDHA). A son of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. He was killed in war by Bhīma. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 136, Verse 20).

CITRABĀṆA (CITRA, CITRAKA). A son of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. Bhīma killed him in war. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 137, Verse 27).

CITRABARHA. A son of Garuḍa. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 101, Verse 12).

CITRĀCĀPA. (CITRĀŚARĀSANA, ŚARĀSANA). One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 67).

CITRADEVA. An attendant of Subrahmaṇya. He loved brahmins deeply. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 71).

CITRADHARMĀ. A king in ancient India. The asura called Virūpākṣa was born again as Citradharman. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 67). The Pāṇḍavas invited him to come and help them in the war. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 4, Verse 13).

CITRAGUPTA. A minister of Kāla. (God of death). His duty is to examine, after the death of men, a list of the good and evil actions they had done while living. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 130).

CITRAKA (CITRA, CITRABĀṆA). A son of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. Bhīma killed him in the great war. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 137).

CITRAKETU I. An emperor, who remained childless for a long time. At last a son was born to him owing to

the blessings of Sage Aṅgiras. But, ere long the child was dead and gone, and its parents, immersed in sorrow took the dead child to Aṅgiras. Nārada also happened to be there on the occasion. Aṅgiras restored the dead child to life and asked him to live with the parents. The boy immediately stood up and told Aṅgiras that he had many parents in his many previous lives, and requested to be enlightened as to which of those parents he was to live with. Brahmā and Nārada felt confused. In the end they disappeared after imparting spiritual wisdom to Citraketu. And, Citraketu, who, for eight days immersed himself in concentrating the mind on God was turned into a Gandharva; his wife too turned Gandharva.

And, both of them rose up in the sky and flying over Mount Kailāsa looked down to the mountain. There they saw Pārvatī being seated on the thighs of Śiva at which sight Citraketu laughed. Enraged by the laughter Pārvatī cursed him to be born as an asura, and he was born as such. Vṛtrāsura was Citraketu born as asura. (Bhāgavata, Saṣṭha Skandha).

CITRAKETU II. A son of Garuḍa. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 101, Verse 12).

CITRAKETU III. A Pāñcāla prince who fought on the side of the Pāṇḍavas. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 95, Verse 41).

CITRAKETU IV. A son of Śiṣupāla. (Bhāgavata, Navama Skandha).

CITRAKEŚI. An Apsarā woman. King Vatsa begot sons like Vṛṣa of her. (Bhāgavata, Navama Skandha).

CITRĀKṢA. One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. Bhīmasena killed him in the great battle. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 136).

CITRAKUṆḌĀKA. (DĪRGHALOCANA). One of the Kauravas killed by Bhīma. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 96, Verse 27).

CITRAKŪṬA. A mountain.

Renowned in the purāṇas, this mountain is on the banks of the river, Mandākinī. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 85). It was here, at Citrakūṭa that Śrī Rāma, Sītā and others lived for a period of time. It is said that Rājalahṣmī (royal wealth and welfare) will embrace those who fast on the Citrakūṭa after a bath in the Mandākinī. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 26, Verse 29). This mountain is in Bāndā Zilla of the U.P. in modern India.

Citrakūṭa is described in Cantos 56 and 94 of Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa.

CITRALEKHĀ I. A celestial maiden. This maiden came and danced in the assembly of the Pāṇḍavas once. (Śloka 34, Chapter 9, Vana Parva, M.B.).

CITRALEKHĀ II. A companion of Uṣā, daughter of the demon, Bāṇa. She was a beautiful portrait painter. Uṣā once dreamt of Aniruddha, grandson of Kṛṣṇa. Even before knowing the identity of the idol of her dream Uṣā fell in love with him. Next day morning Citralekhā gathered from the gloomy Uṣā details of her dream and Citralekhā started making portraits of many known charming princes but Uṣā was not satisfied. She then drew in her imagination a figure which was exactly like that of Aniruddha, the man of her dream. Uṣā was satisfied and it was through the cleverness of Citralekhā that Aniruddha was brought to Uṣā's room and Uṣā was able to marry Aniruddha. (See under 'Aniruddha').