

GRDDHRAKŪṬA. A mountain of northern India. The Lamśūras gave protection to Bṛhadratha at this mountain. (Śloka 82, Chapter 49, Śānti Parva).

GRDDHRAPATRA. A soldier of Skandadeva, (Śloka 74, Chapter 45, Śalya Parva).

GRDDHRAVAṬA. A mount of the Himālayas. This mount is the abode of Mahādeva. Those brahmins who visit this place would get mokṣa and those of other castes would be absolved of all sins. (Śloka 91, Chapter 84, Vana Parva).

GRDDHRIKĀ. A bird. Kaśyapa begot of his wife Tāmṛā, the six birds namely Kāki, Śyenī, Bhāsī, Grddhrikā, Śuci and Grīvā. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 19).

GREEK LITERATURE. Greek is one of the most important Indo-European languages. As an independent branch of the original Indo-European language Greek established itself by about 2000 B.C. Even during its earliest period Greek had four local dialects as a result of the arrival of the Greek-speaking people at different periods of time. Iolic, Ionic-Attic, Arcado Cyprian and western Greek are the four dialects. Ioliese was prevalent in the Lesbos region, and this is the dialect mainly used in the poetry of Homer. The Ionic and Attic dialects were prevalent in Ionia and Attica respectively. After Homer, the major portion of Greek literature was written in this dialect. The Arcado-Cyprian dialect was used in Arcadio and Cyprus. The fourth dialect was also called Doric. Naval traditions, commerce and political power contributed to the growth and development of Greek language and literature. In each dialect, even from the very beginning, literary efforts were made. Each of the four spoken languages very soon developed into a written language. But, in the very initial periods each of the spoken dialects continued its existence in the form of ballads and songs transferred from one man to another. It was Homer who gave those popular ballads an epic form and status and sowed the seeds of the great literature of Greece.

The golden period of Greek literature was when the city of Athens enjoyed supreme political power. Literature during the period set the model for future generations. It was during this period that Greek achieved the best in different literary forms like tragedy, comedy, lyric, elegy, history, philosophy, oratory etc. Pindar, Aeschylus, Herodotus, Sophocles-Euripides, Aristophanes, Thucydides, Plato and Demosthenes—these are distinguished names who were responsible for the great development of the literary forms referred to above.

Greek literature passed the Alexandrian, Roman and Byzantine periods before it arrived at the modern period. It was Solomos and Valerius and others who gave impetus and inspiration to modern Greek literature.

GRHADEVĪ. Another name of the demoness Jarā. (See under Jarā).

GRHAPATI. A sage. There is a story in Śiva Purāṇa about this sage.

Viśvānara father of Grhapati was living with his wife Śuciśmatī in a hermitage on the banks of the river Narmadā. They had no children and Śuciśmatī, was grieved much on this account. She requested her husband find out ways and means to get a child. Viśvānara,

went to Kāśī and did penance to propitiate Viśveśvara and the God appeared before him and blessed him and said: "You will soon get a son". Very soon the wife of Viśvānara delivered a child and the son was named Grhapati. When the child was nine years old Nārada came there once and warned them against fire. Viśvānara immediately went and did penance to propitiate Śiva and obtained from him for his son the qualities of fire also so that fire would be unable to act on him. It was on account of this that Grhapati when he installed an idol of Śiva at Kāśī gave it the name of Agniśvara.

GRHASTHA. In ancient India the life of a male person was divided into four stages, namely, Brahmacharya, Gṛhasthya, Vānaprastha and Sannyāsa. He who is in the second stage of life is called a Gṛhastha.

When a person marries, he becomes a Gṛhastha. The bride should have certain qualities to be an ideal wife. The girl should be only a third of the age of the male. She should not have hair either too much or too little. She should not be black or of a piṅgala hue. She should not have any of her organs extra at the time of birth. The following types of girls are to be avoided for marriage. (1) Girls bred up by low-caste people (2) girls with hair over the body (3) not born of a good family (4) sick ones (5) ill-natured ones (6) girls who use abusive language (7) with hereditary diseases (8) with śmaśru (hair on the face) (9) girls with masculine features (10) with the sound of males (11) lean ones (12) with the voice of a crow (13) with thick eyelashes (14) round eyes. Again avoid girls having hair on their legs, raised heels and those with small depressions on their cheeks when they laugh. Girls whose bodies are too bright, with white nails, red eyes and fat hands and legs are not good for marriage. Girls too tall or too short, with eyelashes touching each other, with broad and raised teeth are to be avoided. A true Gṛhastha is one who marries a girl who is separated from him by five generations on the maternal side and seven generations on the paternal side.

A true Gṛhastha should daily worship devas, cows, brahmins, scholars, old men and preceptors. He should worship sandhyā (dawn and dusk) daily and also fire. He should wear on his body leaves of Viṣṇukrāntī, Karuka (couch grass), Tulasī (holy basil plant). He should appear neat and smart wearing good dress, with white flowers on his well combed head. He should never steal, speak unpleasant words to anybody nor speak an untruth even if it be pleasant. He should not openly speak about the sins of others. He should not covet another man's wife. He should not travel in a damaged vehicle nor should he sit under the shade of a tree on the banks of a river. A Gṛhastha should not mingle with such persons as (1) men hated by the people (2) outcastes from society (3) insane men (4) those having a great number of enemies (5) those who torment others (6) prostitutes (7) husbands of prostitutes (8) those who use abusive language (9) those who tell lies (10) spendthrifts (11) scoundrel-mongers and (12) rogues. Never travel alone. He should not bathe against the flow in a river. Never enter a house on fire nor climb to the extreme top of trees. He should not grind his teeth, squeeze out his nose, yawn without covering the mouth, breathe or spit, with the face covered, laugh noisily, breathe out with a sound, bite