

JYĀMAGHA. A King born in the dynasty of Ikṣvāku. (Harivaṁśa, Chapter 36).

Five sons, who were equal to gods, named Sahasrada, Payoda, Kroṣṭā, Nīla and Ājika were born to Yadu of the family of Ikṣvāku. Several noble persons were born in the family of Kroṣṭā. A noble and broadminded son named Vṛjiniṅvān was born to Kroṣṭā. Śvāhi was born to Vṛjiniṅvān, Ruṣeku to Śvāhi, Citraratha to Ruṣeku and Śaśabindu to Citraratha. Thousand sons were born to Śaśabindu who was an emperor. Important among those thousand who were blessed with radiance, fame, wealth and beauty, were Pṛthuśravas, Pṛthuyāśas, Pṛthutejas, Pṛthubhava, Pṛthukīrti and Pṛthumati. Uśanas was the son of Pṛthuśravas, Śinceyu was the son of Uśanas and Rukmakavaca the son of Śinceyu. Rukmakavaca killed all the archers and conquered the countries and performing aśvamedha (horse sacrifice) gave away all the countries he conquered, as gift to Brāhmaṇas. Five sons were born to Rukmakavaca. Jyāmagha was one of them. His brothers were Rukmeṣu, Pṛthurukma, Parigha and Hari. Of them Parigha and Hari were made Kings of foreign countries. Rukmeṣu was given the country ruled by his father. Pṛthurukma served Rukmeṣu. They drove Jyāmagha away from the country.

Jyāmagha went to the forest and erected a hermitage for him. Then according to the advice of a Brahmin, he who was an old man took bow and arrow and got into a chariot flying a flag and went to the bank of the river Narmadā. He had neither wealth nor attendants. He stayed on the mountain Rkṣavān eating fruits and roots. His wife Śaibyā also had become old. They had no children. Still Jyāmagha did not marry anybody else. Once Jyāmagha came out victorious in a fight in which he got a girl. Jyāmagha took the girl to his wife and told her, "This girl shall be the wife of your son." She asked him how that could be when she had no son. He said, "She will become the wife of the son who is going to be born to you." As a result of severe penance a son named Vidarbha was born to Śaibyā. The damsel who became the wife of Vidarbha gave birth to two sons named Kratha and Kaiśika. (Padma Purāṇa, Chapter 13).

JYEṢṬHĀ I. A deity of inauspicious things. In Kamba Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa, it is observed that Jyeṣṭhā was a goddess obtained by churning the Sea of Milk. As soon as she came up from the sea of Milk, the Trimūrtis (Viṣṇu, Brahmā and Śiva) found her and sent her away ordering her to sit in inauspicious places. The Goddess Jyeṣṭhā came out of the Milk-Sea before the goddess Lakṣmī. So this deity is considered the elder sister of Lakṣmī. As she is the elder she is also called Mūdhēvī (Mūdevī). The mode of worshipping this goddess is given in Bodhāyana Sūtra. Tondiraṭipoti-ālvār, who was a Vaiṣṇava Ālvār, who lived in 7th century A.D. said that it was useless to worship this Goddess. Ancient images of this Goddess have been found. But worship of Jyeṣṭhā was completely discontinued after the 10th century.

In Śaiva Purāṇas it is mentioned that this Goddess is one of the eight portions of Parāśakti. It was believed that the powers of this Goddess regulated human lives in various ways.

JYEṢṬHĀ II. A star. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 64, Stanza 24 that if Brāh-

maṇas are given greens on the day of this star it will bring good to the giver.

JYEṢṬHA. A hermit who was well-versed in the Sāma-Veda. This ancient hermit once received valuable advice from the Sātvatas called Barhiṣads. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 348, Stanza 46).

JYEṢṬHAPUṢKARA. A holy place. Those who visit this holy place will get the fruits of performing the sacrifice of Agniṣṭoma. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 200, Stanza 66).

JYEṢṬHASĀMA. A Sāma meditated upon by the hermit Jyeṣṭha. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 348, Stanza 46).

JYEṢṬHILĀ. A river. This river stays in the palace of Varuṇa worshipping him. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 21).

JYEṢṬHILA. A holy place. He who stays in this holy place for a night will get the fruits of giving a thousand cows as gift. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 84, Stanza 164).

JYOTI I. Son of the Vasu named Aha. Mention is made about him in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 66, Stanza 23.

JYOTI II. One of the two attendants given to Subrahmaṇya by the God Agni (fire). The second one was Jvālājihva. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 33).

JYOTIKA. A famous serpent. This serpent was born to Kaśyapa by his wife Kadrū. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 35, Stanza 13).

JYOTIRATHĀ. A famous river. The people of India used to drink water from this river. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 26).

JYOTIRATHYĀ. A river. He who bathes in this river in the particular place where it merges with the river Śoṇabhadrā, would obtain the fruits of performing the sacrifice of Agniṣṭoma. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 65, Stanza 8).

JYOTIRVASU. A King born in the family of Purūras. He was the son of Sumati and the father of Pratika. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

JYOTIṢA (M). (Astronomy and astrology). Jyotiṣa is the science about the stars and heavenly bodies. The heavenly bodies are the sun, the moon, the other planets and the stars etc. From the very ancient days men believed that these planets and stars in the sky played an important part in controlling the growth and activities of all the living and non-living things in the world.

Astronomy has been a recognized science in Egypt, China and India from very ancient days. History tells us that 3000 years before Christ there were astronomers in Babylon. But even before that time astronomy had fully expanded and grown in Bhārata.

The Vedas are supposed to have six Aṅgas (ancillaries) They are Śikṣā (Phonetics), Kalpa (ritual), Vyākaraṇa (Grammar), Jyotiṣa (astronomy) Chandas (metrics), and Nirukta (etymology). From this it can be said that the Indians had acknowledged Astronomy as an ancillary of the Vedas. The expounders of the Vedas say that Astronomy is the eye of the Vedas.

Astronomy has two sides, the doctrinal side (Pramāṇa-bhāga) and the result-side (Phalabhāga). The Calendar is reckoned in accordance with the Pramāṇa-bhāga. Prediction and casting horoscopes of living beings is the Phala-bhāga.