

on the top of Mahāmeru. They are:— (1) Brahmā's Manovatī in the centre. (2) Due east of it, Indra's Amarāvati. (3) In the south-east corner, Agni's Tejovati. (4) On the southern side, Yama's Saṁyamani. (5) In the south west corner, Nirrti's Kṛṣṇāñjana. (6) On the western side, Varuṇa's Śraddhāvati. (7) In the north-west corner, Vāyu's Gandhavati. (8) On the northern side, Kubera's Mahodaya. (9) In the north east corner, Īśān's Yaśovati. (Devī Bhāgavata, 8th Skandha).

2) *Mahāmeru and Laṅkā*. Rāvaṇa's place of abode Laṅkā was really a peak of Mahāmeru. (For further details, see the previous history of Laṅkā in Para 5 under the word Kubera).

3) *How Mahāmeru got its golden colour*. The Purāṇas declare that the sun keeps going round Mahāmeru. Once, while the sun was thus going round, he wished to take a little rest. He asked permission to place the axle of his chariot for a short while on Mahāmeru. The mountain agreed to it. The grateful Sun-god (Sūrya) blessed Mahāmeru that it would thenceforth have golden colour. Until it received this blessing, Mahāmeru had the colour of ordinary mountains.

4) *Other details*.

(i) Two daughters named Āyati and Niyati were born to Mahāmeru. They were married by Dhātā and Vidhātā respectively. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Part I, Chapter 10).

(ii) Vasiṣṭha had an āśrama near Mahāmeru. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 99, Verse 6).

(iii) Mahāmeru attends on Kubera in Kubera's assembly. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 12, Verse 73).

(iv) The extensive Jambū Vṛkṣa stands on the southern side of Mahāmeru. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 38).

(v) At the time of Emperor Pṛthu, the earth was turned into a cow and all living beings obtained all their necessities by milking her. It was Mahāmeru who stood as milking man on behalf of the mountains. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 69, Verse 18).

(vi) In Tripuradahana, it was Mahāmeru which was erected as the flag-staff in Śiva's chariot. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 202, Verse 78).

(vii) Mahāmeru presented two Pārśadas named Kāñcana and Meghamālī to Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 48).

(viii) Mahāmeru once presented heaps of gold to Emperor Pṛthu. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 59, Verse 1).

(ix) Mahāmeru is anointed as the King of mountains. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 222, Verse 18).

(x) Mahābhārata, Śānti Parva, Chapter 341, Verse 22 says that Vyāsa once stayed on Mahāmeru with his disciples.

(xi) Sthūlāsiras and Baḍavāmukha once performed tapas on Mahāmeru. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 342, Verse 59).

MAHĀMUKHA. A warrior of King Jayadratha. Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 221, Verse 16 mentions that he was killed by Nakula in the battle which followed the forcible abduction of Pāñcālī by Jayadratha.

MAHĀN I. A King of the Pūru dynasty. He was the son of Matināra. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 94, Verse 14).

MAHĀN II. The son of the Agni Bharata, who was a Prajāpati. Mahābhārata, Vana Parva Chapter 219, Verse 8 states that he was a much revered person.

MAHĀNĀDA. A Rākṣasa. In Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa, we see that he was a Minister and the uncle of Rāvaṇa.

MAHĀNADĪ I. A river, celebrated in the Purāṇas and flowing through the region Utkala (Orissa). Arjuna once took a bath in it. Mahābhārata Vana Parva, Chapter 84, Verse 84, states that those who bathe in this river will obtain "Akṣayaloka".

MAHĀNADĪ II. A river in the Śāka island. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 11, Verse 32).

MAHĀNANDA I. See under Tāraka II.

MAHĀNANDA II. A King of Madra land. Dama, the son of Nariṣyanta killed Mahānanda at the Svayaṁvara of Sumanā. (Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa, 130.52).

MAHĀNANDĀ III. A holy place. Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 25, Verse 45, says that those who worship in this place will obtain entry into Nandanavana.

MAHĀNANDĪ. A Magadha King who was the son of Nandivardhana. He was the last King of the Śiśunāga dynasty. King Nanda was the son of Mahānandī by a Śūdra woman. According to Matsya Purāṇa, Vāyu Purāṇa and Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa, he ruled the country for 46 years.

MAHĀPADMA I. The first King of the Nanda dynasty. According to Vāyu Purāṇa and Matsya Purāṇa, Mahāpadma was the son of Mahānandī, the last King of the Śiśunāga dynasty. He was the son of Mahānandī by a Śūdra woman. He killed his father and founded the Nanda dynasty.

MAHĀPADMA II. An elephant in Ghaṭotkaca's elephant army during the Bhārata Yuddha. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 60, Verse 51).

MAHĀPADMA III. One of the Aṣṭadiggajas. (The eight elephants guarding the eight cardinal points). (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 64, Verse 57).

MAHĀPADMAPURA. An ancient place in the south of the Gaṅgā river valley. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 353, Verse 1).

MAHĀPAGĀ. A famous river in ancient India. There is a reference to this river in Mahābhārata, Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Verse 28.

MAHĀPĀRIṢADEŚVARA. A follower of Lord Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 66).

MAHĀPĀRŚVA I. One of the heroic warriors of Rāvaṇa. In the battle between Rāma and Rāvaṇa, all those warriors were killed. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 11).

MAHĀPĀRŚVA II. A mountain to the north-east of Śiva's abode on the top of Mount Kailāsa. There is a reference to this mountain in Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 19, Verse 21.

MAHĀPRASTHĀNIKA PARVA. A subsidiary Parva in Mahābhārata which describes the Mahāprasthāna conducted by the Pāṇḍavas after the Bhārata Yuddha.

MAHĀPUMĀN. A mountain. (Mahābhārata, Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 11, Verse 26).

MAHĀPURA. A holy place. Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 25, Verse 26 states that if one takes a bath in this place and leads a pure life here for three nights, one will become fearless.

MAHĀRAUDRA. A Rākṣasa who was the friend of Ghaṭotkaca. He was killed by Duryodhana at the battle