

in every Kṛtayuga. The Devas of each Manvantaram feed upon the share of Havis (offerings at sacrifices) of the yāga till the end of that Manvantara. During the whole period of the Manvantara, the earth is protected and preserved by the sons of Manu and their descendants. Thus Manu, the Saptarṣis, Devas, Indra and the Kings who are the sons of Manu are the authorities of the Manvantara. After 14 Manvantaras a Kalpa of about 1,000 yugas, comes to an end. After that there is a night extending over the same period in duration. At that time Mahāviṣṇu sleeps on his bed Ananta in the ocean of deluge. After that, he wakes up again and performs creation. Manus, Kings, Indra, Devas and Saptarṣis are the Sātvika aspects of Mahāviṣṇu, who performs the work of protecting the world. In Kṛta yuga, Mahāviṣṇu assumes the form of Kapila and others and preaches "Paramajñāna". In Tretā yuga he assumes the form of an emperor and destroys the wicked people. In Dvāpara yuga, he assumes the form of Vyāsa and after dividing the Veda into 4 sections, classifies each of the sections into the various branches. At the end of Kaliyuga, Mahāviṣṇu assumes the form of Kalki and restores the vicious to the path of righteousness. This is the "Caturyuga scheme" of Mahāviṣṇu. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Part III, Chapter 2).

4) *The fourteen Manus.* The names of the fourteen Manus of one Kalpa are given below :

(1) Svāyambhuva (2) Svārociṣa (3) Uttama (Autami)
(4) Tāmasa (5) Raivata (6) Cākṣuṣa (7) Vaivasvata (8) Sāvarṇi (9) Dakṣasāvarṇi (10) Brahmasāvarṇi (11) Dharmasāvarṇi (12) Rudrasāvarṇi (13) Raucya-devasāvarṇi (14) Indrasāvarṇi.

Each of the above Manus is described below :—

(1) *Svāyambhuva.*

(a) *General.* Svāyambhuva was born as the spiritual son of Brahmā. This Manu got his name because he was "Svāyambhuva" or born from Brahmā. He married the goddess Śatarūpā, the spiritual daughter of Brahmā. After that, he went to the shore of the ocean of milk, made an image of Mahādevī there and worshipped her by chanting Vāgbhava mantra and performed an austere penance. After a hundred years of such worship the goddess was pleased. She appeared before Svāyambhuva and granted him boons. She blessed him to attain the highest place in Heaven (Paramapada) after begetting vast progeny. Then the goddess went to Vindhya mountain and became the deity of Vindhya. Svāyambhuva returned and started his reign by worshipping the goddess.

This Svāyambhuva is regarded as the author of the famous work "Manusmṛti". Kālidāsa says that the Kings of the Raghu dynasty lived in strict obedience to the laws laid down by this Manu. (Devī Bhāgavata, Daśama Skandha).

(b) *Other details.*

(i) The Saptarṣis of first Manvantara were—Marīci, Aṅgiras, Atri, Pulaha, Kratu, Pulastya and Vasīṣṭha. Devas are known as Yamas. The first Manu had ten sons namely Agnīdhra, Agnibāhu, Medhā, Medhātithi, Vasu, Jyotiṣmān, Dyutimān, Havya, Savana and Putra and they ruled over the country. (Harivamśa, Chapter 7).

(ii) Emperor Pṛthu turned Svāyambhuva Manu into a calf and obtained medicine from Bhūmi by milking her as a cow. (Bhāgavata, 4th Skandha).

(iii) Born from Virāṭ aṇḍa. (M.B. Ādi Parva Chapter 1, Verse 32).

(iv) Sage Cyavana married this Manu's daughter. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 66, Verse 46).

(v) This Manu taught Soma, the art of Cākṣuṣī. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 169, Verse 43).

(vi) Since this Manu had blessed the clouds of the Magadha country they sent periodical rains to that region. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 21, Verse 10).

(vii) Manu came to the world, riding in the chariot of the gods to see Arjuna's fight. (M.B. Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 56, Verse 10).

(viii) This Manu had a wife named Sarasvatī (Śatarūpā). (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 117, Verse 14).

(ix) This Manu lives in Bindusaras. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 7, Verse 46).

(x) He came at the time of Subrahmaṇya's birth. (Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 10).

(xi) Manu held discussions with Siddhas. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 36).

(xii) He was the King of men. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 67, Verse 21).

(xiii) This Manu is called "Prajāpati Manu". Once he had a talk with Bṛhaspati on the subject of Dharma. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 201).

(xiv) Upamanyu saw Svāyambhuva Manu sitting by the side of Śiva. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 14, Verse 280).

(xv) He talked with the sage Suparṇa about the greatness of flowers, fumes, lights, offerings and gifts. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, Verse 45).

(2) *Svārociṣa.*

(a) *General.* Svāyambhuva had two great sons Priyavrata and Uttānapāda. The second Manu was the son of Priyavrata and his name was Svārociṣa. He was a glorious and adventurous man. He went to the banks of the river Kālindī, made a hermitage there, installed an idol of Devī made of earth and offered worship most fervently. At the end of 12 years of tapas when he ate only dried leaves, Devī appeared before him in her dazzling brilliance and blessed him. The name of this Devī was "Dhārīṇidevī". After a reign of many years this King went to Heaven. (Devī Bhāgavata, 10th Skandha).

(b) *Other Details.*

(i) Pārāvatas and Tusitas were the Devas in this Manvantara. The mighty Vipāścīt was Devendra. The Saptarṣis were Ūrjja, Stambha, Prāṇa, Rāma, Ṛṣabha, Niraya, and Parivān. Caitra, Kimpuruṣa and others were the sons of Svārociṣa Manu. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Part 3, Chapter 1).

(ii) In Harivamśa, Chapter 7 we read that the Saptarṣis of this Manvantaram were Aurva, Stambha, Kaśyapa, Prāṇa, Bṛhaspati, Datta and Niścyavana.

(iii) Brahmā taught this Manu, Sātvatadharmā. Svārociṣa taught this dharma to his son Śāṅkhavadana. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 348, Verse 36).

(3) *Autami (Uttama).*

(a) *General.* Uttama was also the son of Priyavrata. He went to Gaṅgā tīrtha and offered worship to Devī for three years with Vāgbhīja mantra. At the end of it, Devī was pleased and blessed him with worthy sons and a kingdom without the threat of enemies. After a happy reign of many years, at the close of the Manvantara, he reached the highest place in Heaven. (Devī Bhāgavata, 10th Skandha).