

Madhurā and turned her into a frog. But she said that after twelve years, the curse would be lifted and she would become a woman again. It was in a well near the place where Maya and Hemā were performing tapas that Madhurā fell as frog. After twelve years, the frog recovered her former shape as a woman. At that time Maya saw her, and taking her to be the daughter given to him by Śiva, took her with him to his palace. He gave her the name "Mandodarī". It was this "Mandodarī" whom Rāvaṇa married later.

Besides these three children, Maya had some other sons and daughters. In Devī Bhāgavata, 8th Skandha there is a reference to the Dānava named Bala, the son of Maya, living in Atala, a section of Pātāla. In Kathā saritsāgara, Madanamañcukālambaka, 3rd Taraṅga we find that Maya had two daughters named Svayamprabhā and Somaprabhā. Of them, Somaprabhā was married by Nalakūbara, the son of Vaiśravaṇa.

3) *Alliance with Arjuna and construction of Indraprastha.* Once Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna offered Khāṇḍavavana to Agnideva as a feast. (See under the word "Khāṇḍavadāha"). While Agni was furiously feeding upon the forests, the human and animal inhabitants in it began to flee from it. Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna shot them down with arrows. At that time Maya was hiding himself in the disguise of Takṣaka. When the flames of fire approached that place Maya left his shelter and rushed out. Śrī Kṛṣṇa aimed his weapon Cakra at him. Crying aloud with fear, Maya ran to Arjuna praying for protection. Arjuna stopped Agnideva and Śrī Kṛṣṇa and thus saved Maya. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 240).

From that time, Maya became a loyal follower of Arjuna. After Khāṇḍavadāha, Kṛṣṇa and Arjuna were taking rest when Maya approached them with joined palms and asked Arjuna what he should do in return for saving him from the fury of Kṛṣṇa and the blazing fire. Arjuna replied that he expected no return from Maya for saving his life but wanted only his friendship. Maya was not satisfied. He insisted that Arjuna should accept some service from him as a token of his deep gratitude. On hearing this, Śrī Kṛṣṇa suggested that Maya should build a beautiful palace for the Pāṇḍavas. Accordingly he built a magnificent palace for the Pāṇḍavas at the place called Khāṇḍavaprastha. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 1).

4) *Maya settled down in Vindhya.* Once Maya sought shelter from Mahāviṣṇu. Viṣṇu offered shelter to Maya and so he built a mansion called "Sudharmā" for all the Devas. It was a building of inexpressible beauty and rare architectural workmanship. The Asuras who became angry with Maya for his alliance with the Devas made preparations to attack him. Alarmed at it, Maya fled southwards with his family and reached Vindhya. There he built a lovely mansion and settled down in it. (Kathāsaritsāgara, Madanamañcukālambaka, 3rd Taraṅga).

In Vālmīki Rāmāyaṇa, Kiṣkindhā kāṇḍa, 50th sarga also there is a reference to this wonderful mansion which Maya built on the Vindhya mountain. In their search for Sitā, Hanūmān and the other monkeys reached the Vindhya mountain. There they combed the forests and caves to find out Sitā. When they came to the peak to the south west of the mountain, they saw a huge dark cave. They entered it and cautiously moved forward. After a long and tedious walk the monkeys

were exhausted with hunger and thirst. When they proceeded a little further, they came across a bright place. There they saw a woman sitting alone, dressed in deer skin and barks of trees. She greeted them and in the course of her talk with the monkeys she told them that the cave was made by the magician Maya and that her name was Svayamprabhā. Her mother was Merusāvārī and that she (Svayamprabhā) was entrusted with the task guarding the wonderful mansion. Then she gave them fruits and fresh water.

5) *Building of Tripuras.* It was Maya who built three magic dwellings for the three Dānavas, Kamalākṣa, Tārakākṣa and Vidyumālī. (For details see under the word Pura).

6) *Other details.*

(i) Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 227, Verse 41 says that Namuci the Dānava was the brother of Maya.

(ii) Maya had two sons named Sunītha and Sudaṇḍika. They became human beings under a curse. (For details see under the word Sūryaprabhā).

(iii) In Kathāsaritsāgara Madanamañcukālambaka, 8th Taraṅga we see that Maya was an incarnation of Viśvakarmā.

(iv) At the time when Mahāviṣṇu as Vāmana took the three worlds from Mahābali, Maya joined with other Dānavas and fought against Vāmana. (M.B. Bhaviṣya Parva, Chapter 55).

(v) Once Maya was relaxing with his friends on the Malaya mountain. Knowing about it Maheśvara sent Indra to that mountain. Indra challenged the Dānavas for a fight. In the battle that followed, Indra killed the Dānava named Pāka. Thus he got the name, "Pākaśāsana". Indra killed Pura, the son of Mahābali also in that battle and so came to be known as "Purandara". The remaining Dānavas under the leadership of Maya fled to Pātāla. (Vāmana Purāṇa, Chapter 71).

MĀYĀ.

1) *General information.* A consort of Mahāviṣṇu, Māyā has got a very prominent place in Hindu Purāṇas. The Purāṇas state that this whole universe is unreal, illusory and if we feel it real it is because of the working of this Māyā.

2) *Birth.* How was Māyā born? Agni Purāṇa in its twentieth chapter gives a genealogy of Māyā. Himsā (injury) is the wife of Adharma (evil). They got two children named Anṛta (falsehood) and Nikṛti (wickedness). From them were born Bhaya (fear), Nāraka (hell) Māyā (illusion) and Vedanā (pain). Māyā in turn gave birth to Death, the destroyer of all pain produced from Hate or Misery. Mṛtyu (death) produced Vyādhi (disease), Jarā (rugosity), Śoka (sorrow), Tṛṣṇā (desire) and Krodha (anger).

3) *Exhibition of Māyā.* Mahāviṣṇu once told Nārada thus: "There is nothing like living beings on earth. All is an illusion due to Māyā." Nārada requested Mahāviṣṇu to show him that and Viṣṇu took Nārada to the banks of a river and exhibited the wonderful working of Māyā. (For details see under Tāladhva I).

4) *How Gāthi, a brahmin, saw Māyā.* In the country of Kosala there was once a brahmin named Gāthi. He went to the forests and standing there in water in a pond, immersed up to his neck, started doing penance. For eight months he did penance thus and then Mahāviṣṇu appeared before him and asked him what boon