

Kaṁsa. She had a younger sister called Vṛkodarī. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 18).

(ii) Pūtanā was the dhātrī (foster-mother) of Kaṁsa. She entered Gokula in the form of a bird. (Harivaṁśa, Chapter 2, Verse 6).

(iii) Pūtanā was the sister of Kaṁsa and the wife of Ghaṭodara. (Brahmavaivarta Purāṇa).

2) *Pūrvajanma* (previous birth).

(i) Pūtanā in her previous birth was born as the daughter of Mahābali bearing the name Ratnamālā. When Vāmana appeared before Mahābali during the time of the latter's Yajña, Ratnamālā mentally desired thus:—"Oh if only this Vāmana became my child! I could have then breast-fed him." Vāmana, the omniscient, understood the desire of Ratnamālā. So during the incarnation as Kṛṣṇa, Ratnamālā was born as Pūtanā and Kṛṣṇa gave her salvation by drinking her breast-milk. (Brahma Vaivarta Purāṇa, Chapters 4 and 10).

(ii) Once when the sage Kālabhīru and his daughter Cārumatī were travelling together they saw the sage Kakṣivān doing penance on the shores of the river Sarasvatī. Kālabhīru saw in Kakṣivān a suitable husband for his daughter and so gave Cārumatī in marriage to him. They were thus living happily together when once Kakṣivān had to go on a pilgrimage alone leaving Cārumatī in his āśrama. Taking advantage of her loneliness a Śūdra made her his concubine and when Kakṣivān returned he found out the deceit and cursed her to be born as a demoness. She begged for relief and the sage said she would get relief when Viṣṇu incarnated as Kṛṣṇa. Pūtanā was the cursed form of Cārumatī. (Chapter 18, Ādi Parva).

PŪTANĀ II. An evil spirit. This spirit which torments children stays with Subrahmaṇya. (See under Graha-pīḍā. (Chapter 23, Vana Parva).

PŪTIKĀ. A creeper. This can be used in Yāgas as a substitute for Somalatā. (Śloka 33, Chapter 35, Vana Parva).

PUTRADARŚANAPARVA. A sub-divisional Parva of Āśramavāsika Parva. It comprises chapters 29 to 36.

PUTRAKA. A King. (See under Pāṭaliputra).

PUTRIKĀPUTRA. A son born to a woman who is either a prostitute or one without a brother. (Śloka 11, Chapter 3, Manusmṛiti).

PŪYAVAHA. A hell. (See under Naraka).

## R

R. This letter means "sound". (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 348).

RA. The letter ra means fire, strength, Indra. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 348).

RABHASA I. A monkey in Śrī Rāma's army. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddhakāṇḍa, Canto 4).

RABHASA II. A Rākṣasa on Rāvaṇa's side. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa, Canto 9).

RABHYA. An ancient king wedded to justice and fair-play in ruling the kingdom. (For details see under Ekavīra).

RĀDHĀ I. Śrī Kṛṣṇa's dearest consort. Rādhā is considered to be one of the two forms of Lakṣmīdevī. When Kṛṣṇa lived in Gokula as a man with two hands Rādhā was his dearest consort. But when he lives in Vaikuṅṭha as four-handed Viṣṇu, Lakṣmī is his dearest

consort. (Devī Bhāgavata 9, 1; Brahmavaivarta Purāṇa, 2, 49 and 56-57 and Ādi Parva Chapter 11).

Different versions about the birth of Rādhā are given in the Purāṇas, as follows:—

(i) She was born in Gokula as daughter of Vṛṣabhānu and Kalāvati. (Brahmavaivarta Purāṇa, 2, 49; 35-42; Nārada Purāṇa, 2. 81).

(ii) She was got as Bhūmi-kanyā (earth-girl) when King Vṛṣabhānu was preparing the ground to conduct a Yajña. (Padma Purāṇa; Brahma Purāṇa 7).

(iii) She was born from the left side of Kṛṣṇa. (Brahmavaivarta Purāṇa).

(iv) At the time of Kṛṣṇa's birth Viṣṇu asked his attendants to be born on earth. Accordingly Rādhā, dear consort of Kṛṣṇa, took her birth in Gokula under the star Jyesthā in the morning of Śuklāṣṭamī day in Bhādrapada month. (Ādi Parva 11).

(v) Kṛṣṇa once went with Virajā, the Gopī woman, to the hall of enjoyment (rāsamaṇḍalam). Knowing about it Rādhā followed them to the hall, but both of them were not to be seen. On another occasion when Rādhā found Virajā in the company of Kṛṣṇa and Sudāmā she, in great anger, insulted Kṛṣṇa whereupon Sudāmā cursed her to be born in human womb and experience the pangs of separation from Kṛṣṇa. (Nārada Purāṇa 2. 8; Brahmavaivarta Purāṇa. 2. 49) and Rādhā cursed him in turn to be born in the dānava dynasty. It was on account of this curse of Rādhā that Sudāmā was born as the asura called Śaṅkhacūḍa. (Brahma Vaivarta Purāṇa, 2. 4. 9. 34).

(vi) Rādhā is considered to be one of the five forces which help Viṣṇu in the process of creation. (Devī Bhāgavata 9. 1; Nārada Purāṇa 2. 81).

(vii) Rādhā is the mental power of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. (For details see under Pañcaprāṇas).

RĀDHĀ II. Wife of Adhiratha, the foster-father of Karṇa and the foster-mother of Karṇa. (See under Karṇa).

RĀGĀ. One of the seven daughters of Bṛhaspati—Aṅgiras. As she was loved by all beings she came to be called Rāgā. (Vana Parva, Chapter 203).

RĀGAKHĀNḌAVA. A cake-like thing formed in a Yajña performed by King Dilipa. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 61, Verse 8).

RAGHU.

1) *General*. A famous king of the Solar dynasty. The great king Dilipa was his father. (For Genealogy, birth etc., see under Da'aratha and Dilipa).

2) *Other information*.

(i) Raghu also occupies a place in the list of famous kings of ancient days. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 1, Verse 232).

(ii) In the fight between the king of Virāṭa and the Kauravas (over the lifting of cows) Raghu was present along with Indra to see Arjuna fight. (Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 56, Verse 10).

(iii) Raghu got from King Yuvanāśva a sword, which he presented to Hariṇāśva. (Śānti Parva Chapter 166, Verse 78).

(iv) He did not eat flesh. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 150, Verse 81).

(v) Kṣatriyas who praise Raghu will not be defeated in war. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 165, Verse 51).

(vi) In the list of kings to be remembered at dawn and at dusk Raghu too is included. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 165, Verse 51).