

5) *Family life*. Rāvaṇa married Maṇḍodari, foster-daughter of Mayāsura and three sons, Meghanāda, Atikāya and Akṣakumāra were born to the couple. He then conquered the whole world with the cooperation of his sons and other Rākṣasas. The Aṣṭadikpālakas (protectors of the eight regions) were subjugated. He attacked Devaloka, but was defeated and imprisoned. Meghanāda by magical trickery captured Indra and released Rāvaṇa from custody. Meghanāda came to be called Indrajit from that day onwards.

6) *Kārtavīryārjuna and Rāvaṇa*. See under Kārtavīryārjuna, Para 6.

7) *Curses heaped on Rāvaṇa*. As a result of ruling the land, as a terror to the whole world, for many years and of his triumphal journey Rāvaṇa had invited on his head eighteen śāpas (curses) as follows.

(i) *Nalakūbara śāpa*. Rāvaṇa once insulted Rambhā, the betrothed wife of Nalakūbara during her tour at a place near Alakā. On hearing about the insult Nalakūbara cursed that Rāvaṇa should die with his ten heads broken.

(ii) *Vedavatiśāpa*. While Vedavati, the only daughter of sage Kuśadhvaja, was doing tapas to secure Śrī Mādhava as her husband. Rāvaṇa committed rape on her and she cursed him thus :—"You and your family will be ruined by Lord Nārāyaṇa on account of me."

(iii) *Brāhmaṇaśāpa*. He invited a Vedic brahmin to install the idol of Tripurasundarī given to him by Śiva. As the brahmin happened to be a bit late to come, Rāvaṇa imprisoned him for seven days, and the old brahmin cursed that Rāvaṇa would be imprisoned seven months by a man.

(iv) *Nandikeśvaraśāpa*. For calling him 'monkey' at Kailāsa, Nandikeśvara cursed that Rāvaṇa and his kingdom would be destroyed by monkeys.

(v) *Vasiṣṭhaśāpa*. As Vasiṣṭha refused Rāvaṇa's invitation to teach the Vedas etc. he took the former captive. When he was released from captivity by the solar King Kuvalayāśva, Vasiṣṭha cursed that Rāvaṇa and his family would be destroyed by those born in the solar dynasty.

(vi) *Aṣṭāvakraśāpa*. Rāvaṇa once saw sage Aṣṭāvakra at Śleśmātaka and gave him a kick saying, 'Oh! handsome fellow! I shall cure your eight hunches', and the sage cursed Rāvaṇa as follows :—"For kicking me, a poor innocent sage, you will be kicked from head to foot and foot to head by monkeys."

(vii) *Dattātreyasāpa*. Rāvaṇa once poured on his own head water kept purified by mantras by Dattātreyā to bathe the head of his Guru, and the latter cursed that Rāvaṇa's head would be polluted by the feet of monkeys.

(viii) *Dvaipāyanaśāpa*. When Rāvaṇa molested and wounded the lips of Dvaipāyana's sister in his own presence he cursed that Rāvaṇa's sister would be mutilated by a man and he would be humiliated by monkeys.

(ix) *Māṇḍavyasāpa*. During a pleasure trip of his with Mandodari Rāvaṇa cruelly manhandled Māṇḍavyamaharṣi, when the latter cursed that Rāvaṇa too would be roughly handled by a monkey.

(x) *Atriśāpa*. Rāvaṇa once dragged by hair the wife of Atri in his very presence, and Atri cursed that Rāvaṇa will have to witness his wife being denuded of her dress and dragged by the hair by monkeys.

(xi) *Nāradaśāpa*. Nārada refused to explain the meaning of 'Om' to Rāvaṇa and the latter threatened to cut the tongue of Nārada. Nārada then cursed that all the ten heads of Rāvaṇa would be cut by a man.

(xii) *Ṛtūvarmaśāpa*. Rāvaṇa once raped Madanamañjarī, wife of Ṛtūvarman, who lived as an anchorite in the marutta forest, and the latter cursed that Rāvaṇa would be killed by a man.

(xiii) *Maudgalyasāpa*. Once maharṣi Maudgalya was sitting in the svastika pose resting his neck on the yogadaṇḍa (a short stick-like piece of wood with a handle) Rāvaṇa happened to come there and he cut into two the yogadaṇḍa with his Candrahāsa (sword) with the result that the maharṣi fell down with face upwards and broke his back-bone. The maharṣi then cursed that Rāvaṇa's Candrahāsa would prove ineffective in future.

(xiv) *Brāhmaṇajananiśāpa*. Certain young brahmin girls who had gone for sea-bath were humiliated by Rāvaṇa in the presence of their mothers when they cursed that the wife of Rāvaṇa would be insulted in his very presence by monkeys.

(xv) *Agniśāpa*. Rāvaṇa once humiliated Svāhādevī, wife of Agni in his very presence and Agni cursed that Rāvaṇa's wife would be humiliated by monkeys in his presence.

(xvi) *Anaranyaśāpa*. Rāvaṇa killed by one blow on his chest King Anaranya of the solar dynasty who sought refuge with him, and the King cursed that Rāvaṇa would die with all his ten heads cut by the arrows of a prince of the solar dynasty.

(xvii) *Bṛhaspatiśāpa*. When Rāvaṇa was about to return after conquering Devaloka and taking the devas captives, Sulekhādevī, daughter of Bṛhaspati tried to take shelter somewhere when Rāvaṇa attempted to catch her by force. Then Bṛhaspati cursed that Rāvaṇa would die hit by the arrows of Rāma.

(xviii) *Brahmadevasāpa*. Rāvaṇa tried to humiliate Puñjikādevī, daughter of Brahmā, and the latter cursed that Rāvaṇa would die with all his ten heads broken if he touched unwilling women.

8) *Rāvaṇa got Candrahāsa*. See under Candrahāsa.

9) *He threatened Devas*. Rāvaṇa, during his triumphal march with the armies, once came to the Uśiravira mountain. Then the King called Marutta was performing Maheśvara yajña on the plains of the mountain. Indra and the other devas came to receive their portion of the offerings. But they ran away in fear on the arrival of Rāvaṇa. Indra assumed the form of a peacock, Yama that of a crow, Kubera that of a chameleon and Varuṇa that of a swan, and the devas, thus assuming various forms went away in different directions. Marutta got angry and got ready to fight Rāvaṇa. But, as the maharṣis prevented him from it no fighting took place. Rāvaṇa returned with the glories of victory.

10) *He defeated Kāla*. Once Nārada felt the urge to witness a quarrel. He went to Laṅkā and told Rāvaṇa tales about Kāla, that Kāla was more powerful than Rāvaṇa, that Kāla would soon be causing Rāvaṇa's death etc. These stories awakened the anger in Rāvaṇa against Kāla, and the former, with a strong army challenged Kāla, and war between the two started.