

REVATĪ III. One of the twentyseven stars. The following statements occur in the Mahābhārata about the importance of this star.

(i) Śrī Kṛṣṇa started on his journey at the auspicious moment of Maitra on the star Revatī in the month of Kārttika. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 83, Stanza 6).

(ii) If a cow is given as alms on the day of this star that cow will go to heaven and make preparations for the comforts and convenience of the giver. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 64, Stanza 33).

(iii) He who gives offerings to the manes on Revatī day would become wealthy. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 89, Stanza 14).

REVATĪ IV. The mother of Raivata, the lord of the fifth Manvantara (age of a Manu). There is a story in the Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa about the birth of Revatī.

A son was born to the hermit R̥tavāk on Revatī day. By and by he became wicked. Having learned from the hermit Garga that his son became wicked because he was born under the star Revatī, R̥tavāk cursed the star Revatī and kicked it down from its place. The spot on which the star fell became a lake. After a time a beautiful damsel was born from the lake. The hermit Pramuca took the girl home and brought her up. She was called Revatī. When she came of age, she was given in marriage to Durgama, the son of king Vikramaśīla. At the request of Revatī her marriage was conducted at an auspicious moment on the day of the star Revatī. The hermit blessed the couple "Let a son, who would become the Lord of the Manvantara, be born to you." As a result of this blessing the bright and valiant son Raivata was born to them. This Raivata was the Lord of the fifth Manvantara.

RGVEDA. The R̥gveda is the oldest recorded work of the human race. The Egyptians claim that another book entitled "Book of the Dead" was also written during the period of the R̥gveda. The Babylonians have an ancient work called 'Gilgamesh', which according to scholars, is not as old as the R̥gveda. R̥gveda is the work that forms the basis of Hindu religion. Of the four Vedas, Yajurveda, Sāmaveda and Atharvaveda were composed after R̥gveda." The R̥gveda sūktas were interpreted for the first time in Yaska's "Nirukta" and Sāyaṇa's "Vedārthaprakāśa".

The most important of the four Vedas is R̥gveda. It is divided into ten "Maṇḍalas". There are 1017 sūktas and 10472 R̥ks in it. Although there are 11 more Sūktas called "khilas," they are not usually included in the R̥gveda.

Maṇḍalas two to seven of the R̥gveda were composed in different R̥ṣikulas. The second Maṇḍala was of Bhārgava Kula, the third of Viśvāmitrakula, the fourth of Vāmadeva, the fifth of Atri, the sixth of Bharadvāja and the seventh of Vasiṣṭha. The eighth Maṇḍala and the first 50 Sūktas of the first Maṇḍala were composed by Kaṇvakula. The general view is that the tenth Maṇḍala was written by someone at a later period.

Most of the R̥gveda sūktas are praises. But some of the Sūktas in the tenth Maṇḍala are of a different type. We can see in many sūktas the joy and wonder experienced by the Āryas when they entered the beautiful land of India for the first time. Most scholars believe that the R̥gveda was composed during the period between 2,500 and 2,000 B. C.

Ancient Belief about R̥gveda. The four Vedas—R̥gveda, Yajurveda, Sāmaveda and Atharvaveda emerged from the four faces of Brahmā. In Kṛtayuga, Brahmā gave these Vedas to his sons. In Dvāparayuga, the R̥ṣis got these Vedas. Mahāviṣṇu incarnated on earth for the preservation of Dharma, in the person of Veda Vyāsa. Vyāsa distributed the Vedas among his son Śākalya and his disciples. Śākalya received R̥gveda. He communicated it to his disciples. (Bhāgavata, 12th Skandha. See under the word Veda).

RIPU. Grandson of Dhruva. Two sons called Śiṣṭi and Bhavya were born to Dhruva by his wife Śambhū. Śiṣṭi's wife Succhāyā delivered five sons, i.e. Ripu, Ripuñjaya, Vipra, Vṛkala and Vṛkatejas. Cākṣuṣa Manu was born as the son of Ripu by his wife Bṛhatī. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Part 1, Chapter 13).

RIPUÑJAYA. I Son of Suratha, lord of Kuṇḍala city. When Suratha captured Śrī Rāma's yājñic horse there ensued a fierce war between him and Śatrughna. Ripuñjaya too was present at the fighting. (Padma Purāṇa).

RIPUÑJAYA. II A brahmin, who was born as Divodāsa, king of Kāśī in his rebirth. When once fire ceased to be in Kāśī, he took upon himself the function of fire. (Skanda purāṇa, 4.2, 39-48).

RIPUÑJAYA III. See under Ripu.

RIṢṬA. A king. He worships Yama in his assembly. (Sabhā Parva, Chapter 8).

R̥JISVĀ. A king mentioned in the R̥gveda. Once he besieged the city of another King, Vamgr̥da, with the help of Indra. (R̥gveda, 1st Maṇḍala, 10th Anuvāka, 53rd Sūkta).

R̥JRAŚVA. A muni (sage) celebrated in the R̥gveda. Some details. (1) R̥jrāśva was made blind by his father (R̥gveda, 1st Maṇḍala, 16th Anuvāka, 112th Sūkta) (2) R̥jrāśva was the son of the royal sage, Vṛṣāgīr. Once the donkey which is the vehicle of the Aśvinīdevas assumed the shape of a she-wolf and went to R̥jrāśva. R̥jrāśva gave it 100 sheep belonging to the people of the country and cut them to pieces and offered the same as food to the she-wolf. This plunder of the people's wealth enraged Vṛṣāgīr. He cursed R̥jrāśva and made him lose his eye-sight.

R̥jrāśva who thus became blind offered prayers to Agni, who restored his eyesight. (R̥gveda, 1st Maṇḍala, 17th Anuvāka, 116th Sūkta).

R̥K. A small section of the Veda. The Veda which issued from the face of God at the time of creation, consisted of 1,00,000 books in four sections, beginning with R̥k. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Part III, Chapter 4). The root "R̥C" means "to praise". It got the name "R̥K" meaning, "to praise gods".

R̥KṢA I. A king of the Pūru dynasty. He was the father of Saṁvaraṇa. For genealogy see under the word Saṁvaraṇa (M. B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 94).

R̥KṢA II. King Hariha had a son named R̥kṣa born to him by his wife Sudevā. Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 95 says that this R̥kṣa had a son named Matināra, by his wife Jvālā.

R̥KṢĀ. Wife of Ajamidha, who was a king of the lunar dynasty. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 95, Verse 37).

R̥KṢADEVA. Son of Śikhāṇḍī. Mahābhārata, Droṇa Parva, Chapter 23 refers to his horse with white and red colour.