

Bharata and Sumitrā's sons were Lakṣmaṇa and Śatrughna. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bāla Kāṇḍa, Chapters 14-16).

RTA I. One of the 11 Rudras. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 150, Verse 12).

RTA II. See under the word Pramṛta.

RTA III. This word has a general meaning "truth". Besides, in Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 152, we see that it also means "Something obtained by begging".

RTADHĀMĀ. Another name of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 342, Verse 62).

RTADHVAJA I. (KUALĀŚVA—DHUNDHUMĀRA). A famous King of the Ikṣvāku dynasty.

1) *Genealogy*. From Viṣṇu were descended in the following order—Brahmā—Marīci—Kaśyapa—Vivasvān—Vaivasvata Manu—Ikṣvāku—Vikukṣi—Śaśāda—Kākutstha—Anenas—Pṛthulā'va—Viṣvaga'va—Adri—Kualāśva (Dhundhumāra).

2) *How he got the name Dhundhumāra*. The most heroic exploit of Kualāśva or Kvalayāśva was his killing of the Asura Dhundhu.

Madhu and Kaiṭabha were two Asuras born from the ears of Mahāviṣṇu. The Asura Dhundhu was their son. After his birth, Mahāviṣṇu killed Madhu and Kaiṭabha. Dhundhu was furious over the death of his fathers. He worshipped Brahmā who granted him unconquerable strength. After defeating the gods he went to the desert called Ujjālaka and lay beneath the sands. Whenever he heaved a sigh clouds of dust rose up to the sky and the earth shook for seven days. It caused great damage to life and property in the world, like a storm. Uттаṅka, a sage who lived in the neighbourhood of Ujjālaka was the person who suffered most from Dhundhu's misdeeds.

Bṛhadaśva, of Ikṣvāku dynasty and father of Kualāśva in his old age entrusted the rule of the country to his son and prepared to go to the forest. At that time, sage Uттаṅka came there and advised the King to go to the forest only after killing Dhundhu. Bṛhadaśva called his son Kualāśva and after giving him the task of killing Dhundhu, proceeded to the forest.

Kualāśva had 21,000 sons. Leading them, he went to the desert Ujjālaka to kill Dhundhu. Uттаṅka declared that anyone who killed Dhundhu would get part of Mahāviṣṇu's strength. Kualāśva's sons surrounded Dhundhu. The Asura awoke with anger. In the fire from his eyes, all the 21,000 sons of Kualāśva were burnt to ashes. Next Kualāśva came into conflict with Dhundhu. In that fight Dhundhu was killed. The gods gave Kualāśva many boons. From that day, Kualāśva got the name, "Dhundhumāra" (one who killed Dhundhu). (M.B. Vana Parva, 4 Chapters from 201).

3) *His sons*. Kualāśva had three more sons named Dṛḍhāśva, Kapilāśva and Candrāśva, or Bhadrāśva besides the 21,000 sons. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 204, Verse 40).

4) Vāmana Purāṇa, Chapter 59 gives the following account of how Kualāśva won the favour of sage Gālava.

Long ago while sage Gālava was performing tapas in his āśrama, an Asura called Pātālaketu used to disturb his meditations regularly. One day, the sage looked up to Heaven and heaved a sigh. At once a horse dropped down from the sky. A mysterious voice was heard saying—"This mighty horse will travel thousands of

yojanas in a day." The sage received that horse and presented it to Ṛtadhvaṇa, King of the lunar dynasty. Ṛtadhvaṇa mounted the horse and killed Pātālaketu. It was Viśvāvasu who dropped this horse from Heaven. Pātālaketu had once fallen in love with Viśvāvasu's daughter, Madālasā. It was in revenge that Viśvāvasu had done like this.

ṚTADHVAJA II. A Mahārṣi (sage). The sage Jābāli was his son. (For further details, see Para 2 under the word Viśvakarmā).

ṚTAMBHARA. An ancient King. He worshipped Kāmadhenu and obtained a son who was a devotee of Viṣṇu. The son's name was Satyavān. In connection with Śrī Rāma's Aśvamedhayāga, Śatrughna who was leading the horse, arrived in Satyavān's city during his tour of the eastern lands. (Padma Purāṇa, Pātāla Kāṇḍa, Chapter 30).

ṚTASTUBH A Muni (sage) celebrated in the Ṛgveda. (Ṛgveda, 1st Maṇḍala, 16th Anuvāka, 112th Sūkta).

RTĀYU. See under Kaliṅga.

RTEYU I. A king of the Lunar dynasty.

RTEYU II. A Mahārṣi (sage) of the western country. He was a ṛtvik (priest officiating at a yāga) of Varuṇa. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 150, Verse 36).

ṚTUKĀLA. The time that is most auspicious for sexual intercourse for a woman with her husband. In ancient India certain days were prescribed as the best period for women to become pregnant. This period is called Rtukāla. (Rtu—Menstruation. Kāla—time, period.)

The sixteen days following menstruation are supposed to be good; but the first three days are not very good and it is advisable not to have sexual intercourse during those days. The next even days beginning with the fourth day (4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, 12th, 14th and 16th) are the best days for coitus if a male issue (a son) is desired. The odd days (5th, 7th, 9th, 11th, 13th, 15th) are to be preferred if a female issue (daughter) is desired. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 151).

ṚTUPARṆA. A king of the Ikṣvāku dynasty.

1) *Genealogy*. From Viṣṇu were descended in the following order—Brahmā—Kaśyapa—Vivasvān—Vaivasvata Manu—Ikṣvāku—Vikukṣi—Śaśāda—Purañjaya—Kākutstha—Anenas—Pṛthulāśva—Prasenajit—Yuvanāśva—Māndhātā—Purukutsa—Trasadasyu—Anaraṇya—Aryaśva—Vasumanas—Sutanvā—Trayāruṇa—Satyavrata (Triśaṅku)—Hariścandra—Rohitāśva—Harita—Cuñcu—Sudeva—Bharuka—Sagara—Asamañjasa—Amśumān—Bhagīratha—Śrutanābha—Sindhu—dvīpa—Ayutāyus—Ṛtuparṇa.

2) *Other Details*.

i) *Nala's incognito life*. While Nala was wandering in the dense forest after leaving Damayantī, he was bitten by the serpent, Karkoṭaka. His complexion turned blue owing to the effect of the poison. Karkoṭaka gave him a garment by wearing which Nala could regain his form. As advised by Karkoṭaka, Nala went to the palace of Rtu-parṇa, king of Ayodhyā, assuming the name Bāhuka. He lived there as the chief charioteer of the king. He had mastered the art "Aśvahṛdaya" by which he could drive the chariot-horses with astonishing speed. Rtu-parṇa appointed him as his chief charioteer and gave him two assistants, Vārṣṇeya and Jīvala. (M.B., Araṇya Parva, Chapter 67).

(ii) *Rtu-parṇa and the second marriage of Damayantī*. Damayantī came to know that Nala was living in Rtu-parṇa's palace, through the messenger Parṇāda. She