

ketu. At the instruction of Śrī Rāma, Lakṣmaṇa went to the Eastern sea and killed the foresters there and built there a city called Agatī. Takṣaka was made the King of Agatī. Lakṣmaṇa then went to the western sea and killed the Barbarians there and built a city called Candramatī and made Chatraketu the King of that city. Being punished by Śrī Rāma, Lakṣmaṇa drowned himself in the river Sarayū. (See under Lakṣmaṇa). After that Ūrmilā jumped into a pile of fire and reached the world of Viṣṇu. (Uttara Rāmāyaṇa).

URŪĀ. A wife of Marīci. In the Svāyambhuva Manvantara Marīci had a wife called Ūrṇā and six mighty sons by her. When they saw Brahmā once, they teased him by calling him 'a father who had married his daughter.' Brahmā got angry with them, and cursed them to take birth as Daityas (demons) on the earth. Accordingly they took birth as the sons of Kālanemi on earth. (Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 4).

URŪĀNĀBHĀ (SUDARŚANA). A son of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Stanza 96). It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Droṇa Parva, Chapter 127, Verse 67, that Bhīmasena killed him.

URŪĀYU. A Devagandharva. He had participated in the Birth celebration of Arjuna. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 122, Stanza 52). Once this Devagandharva fell in love with Menakā. (Mahābhārata, Udyoga Parva, Chapter 117, Stanza 16).

ŪRU. A son born to Manu Cākṣuṣa by his wife Naḍvalā. Ūru had nine brothers named Pūru, Satadyumna, Tapasvī, Satyavāk, Kavi, Agniṣṭhu, Atirātra, Sudyumna and Atimanyu. Six great sons were born to Ūru by his wife Ātreiyī. They were Aṅga, Sumanas, Svātī, Kratu, Aṅgiras and Gaya. Vena was born to King Aṅga by his wife Sunīthā and the famous emperor Pṛthu was born as the son of Vena. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 18).

URUKRAMA. Another name of Vāmana.

ŪRVA (AURVA). A luminous hermit of the family of Bhṛgu. He was the son of Cyavana and the father of Rciḥka. He created a tremendous fire for the destruction of the three worlds and extinguished it by putting it in the ocean. (For details see under Aurva).

URVARĀ. A celestial woman in the palace of Kubera. In the company of some other celestial women, she danced before the hermit called Aṣṭāvakra. (M.B. Anuśāna Parva, Chapter 19, Stanza 44).

URVARĪYĀN. Son of the Prajāpati Pulaha. Three sons named Kardama, Urvarīyān and Sahiṣṇu, were born to Pulaha by his wife Kṣamā. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Amśa 1, Chapter 1).

URVAŚĪ I. A famous celestial damsel.

1) *Birth of Urvaśī*. In days of old two hermits named Nara and Nārāyaṇa did penance to Brahmā in the holy hermitage of Badarikā for a thousand years. (Nara and Nārāyaṇa were the children born to Dharma, the son of Brahmā). Because of the severity of their penance Indra was struck with fear. Thinking that they were doing this severe penance with a view to become Indra, he approached the hermits and told them that they might ask for any boon. Even though Indra told them several times, they did not speak a word nor did they make any stir. Indra's fear increased. So Indra decided to create some delusions which would arouse in them fear, desire etc., so that their penance might be broken. He began to bring around them wild animals such as lion, elephant wild snake etc. and natural phenomena such as storm,

heavy rain, forest-fire etc. to terrify them. The efforts of Indra were futile. The disappointed Indra sent for Kāmadeva (Cupid) and consulted him, as a result of which Kāmadeva and his wife Ratidevī with many celestial maids came to the hermitage in the mountain of Gandhamādana with the intention of hindering the penance of Naranārāyaṇas. The season of spring was created in the forest. The celestial women such as Rambhā and others came before the hermits and began to sing and dance. The hearts of the hermits began to swell with passion. When they opened their eyes what they saw was a beautiful sight. The famous celestial women, Menakā, Rambhā, Tilotamā, Sukeśinī, Manoramā, Maheśvarī, Puṣpagandhā, Pramadvarā, Ghṛtācī, Candraprabhā, Somā, Vidyumālā, Ambujākṣī, Kāñcanamālā, and others with their ten thousand and eighty hand-maids stood before them. Hermit Nārāyaṇa who got terribly angry struck on his thigh with his hand and instantly there arose a woman of extreme beauty. Because she had originated from the Ūru (thigh) of Nārāyaṇa, that woman, who was the most beautiful in the three worlds, got the name Urvaśī. All the others were struck with wonder at the sight of this new creation. After that so many other beautiful women also were created. The hermit Nārāyaṇa gave all of them to Indra. With shame Indra accepted them and returned to heaven along with them. Thus Urvaśī arrived at the realm of the devas (gods). (Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 4).

2) *Position of Urvaśī*. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata that Urvaśī had the eleventh place among the singers. The expert dancers were Anūcānā, Adrikā, Somakeśī, Miśrā, Alambuṣā, Marīci, Śucikā, Vidyutparṇā, Tilotamā, Ambikā, Kṣemā, Rambhā, Subāhu, Asitā, Supriyā, Puṇḍarikā, Sugandhā, Surasā, Pramāthinī, Kāmyā and Śāradvatī. Urvaśī got the first place among the celestial maids in beauty. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 123).

3) *Urvaśī and Purūravas*. Purūravas was the son of Budha born of Ilā. He grew up and became a king of great renown. His fame reached even the realm of the gods. One day during that period Brahmā cursed Urvaśī. "Go and be born on the earth." (It is stated in the Devī Bhāgavata that it was Brahmā who cursed Urvaśī and in the Bhāgavata that it was the Mitrāvaruṇas who cursed Urvaśī). Urvaśī had heard about the fame of Purūravas and had felt tender love for him. The celestial maid reached the earth. She went to the palace of Purūravas and saw him. Because of the perfection of their figures, both loved mutually. The king asked her to become his wife. She agreed. But she laid down three conditions.

(i) I have with me two lambs which I bring up as my sons. You must take care of them. No harm should befall them.

(ii) I take in only ghee. On no account should you compel me to eat any other food.

(iii) Don't come near me in nudity except at the time of coition.

The king agreed to all these conditions. From that day onwards Urvaśī lived in the palace of the king as his wife. They lived happily for a long while without separating from each other.

Urvaśī became conspicuous by her absence in the realm of the gods. She was the most expert actress in heaven.