

to enter bodily into the heaven. At last Viśvāmitra, by the power of his penance created an artificial heaven midway between the heaven and the earth and placed Triśaṅku in that heaven. With this the gap between the two hermits widened. (For more details see under Triśaṅku).

(iii) *Third confrontation.* By the blessing of Varuṇa, a son named Lohita was born to Hariścandra. He had promised Varuṇa to sacrifice his son Lohita. But Lohita came to know of this and he left the palace. Hariścandra was in a difficult situation. Vasiṣṭha advised him to buy a son and to sacrifice him. Accordingly a Brahmin boy named Śunaśśepha was bought. Vasiṣṭha decided to sacrifice him. Viśvāmitra said that he could not be sacrificed. Hariścandra was loved by Vasiṣṭha. So Viśvāmitra tried to harm him as far as possible. Hariścandra fell in the trap of Viśvāmitra and lost his country, city, wife, everything and had to live in funeral places. (For detailed story see under Hariścandra.)

(iv) *Fourth confrontation.* Vasiṣṭha did not like the deception practised by Viśvāmitra, on Hariścandra. Once Viśvāmitra and Vasiṣṭha met in the forest by chance. Vasiṣṭha scolded Viśvāmitra, who had only the guise of a hermit, thus: "You wicked Viśvāmitra! Why do you put the truthful Hariścandra into so much misery? You are deceiving him as the stork sits in meditation and deceives the fish. So you will become a stork."

Viśvāmitra looked at the hermit Vasiṣṭha who had cursed him and said. "So long as I am a stork you shall be Kingfisher. Thus they cursed each other. Both of them became birds and went to the shore of Mānasa lake and each building a nest on the top of trees began to live there. There was nothing but quarrel between the two birds daily. Both pecked and scratched each other to such an extent that they were covered with bleeding wounds. They looked like an Erythrina tree filled with flowers. Everybody who saw them was filled with sadness. Thus they lived there for a long time.

Once the Kind-hearted Brahmā, the father of Vasiṣṭha, saw their sorry plight. Having pity on them he came there with the other gods and delivered them both from the curse. (Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 6).

(v) *Fifth confrontation.* Viśvāmitra called the river Sarasvatī and asked her to bring Vasiṣṭha along with her current. Sarasvatī did not like the idea. Still, fearing the curse of Viśvāmitra she agreed to do so. The river-basin where Vasiṣṭha had been performing penance was pulled down by the current of the river, and taking Vasiṣṭha in the current carried him down. Sarasvatī did not wish to leave Vasiṣṭha at the mercy of Viśvāmitra. So when they reached the door of the hermitage of Viśvāmitra, she carried him further down in a swift current. Viśvāmitra got angry and cursed Sarasvatī. "Let blood flow through the river." With that the water of Sarasvatī changed to blood-colour. The gods were perplexed at this. They all gathered on the banks of the river. In the presence of the gods, both the hermits came to a compromise. Thenceforward that place became a holy tīrtha under the name Vasiṣṭhāpavāha. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 42).

3) *Other details.*

(i) Vasiṣṭha changed Ilā a woman, into a man. (For details see under Ilā I).

(ii) Wives and children. Seven sons Rajas, Gotra, Ūrdhvabāhu, Savana, Anagha, Sutapas and Śukra, were born to Vasiṣṭha by his wife Ūrjā. These seven pure and just persons were the Saptarṣis (seven hermits) in the first Manvantara. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Amśa I, Chapter 10).

(Rāja, Gātra, Ūrdhvabāhu Savana, Alaghu, Śukra (and Sutapas are the names given in Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 20, of the sons of Vasiṣṭha born by his wife Ūrjā).

(iii) Vasiṣṭha and emperor Nimi. (See under Nimi)

(iv) The Ṛgveda of Vasiṣṭha. There are ten Maṇḍalas in Ṛgveda, of which the seventh Maṇḍala was composed by the sages of Vasiṣṭha's hermitage.

(v) Cursing Rāvaṇa. Once Rāvaṇa asked Vasiṣṭha to come as his teacher and teach him the Vedas and the other scriptures. Vasiṣṭha did not comply with his request. The angry Rāvaṇa got Vasiṣṭha a captive. But the King Kunalayāśva of the Solar dynasty, liberated Vasiṣṭha from captivity. The rescued Vasiṣṭha cursed Rāvaṇa. You and your family will be exterminated by those born of the Solar dynasty." (Kamba Rāmāyaṇa, Yuddha Kāṇḍa).

(vi) Vasiṣṭha jumped into the river. See under Adṛśyanti.

(vii) In uniting Tapatī and Samvaraṇa Vasiṣṭha played a very prominent part. (See under Tapatī).

(viii) It was Vasiṣṭha who put a stop to the sacrifice for the extermination of the Rākṣasas (giants) performed by Parāśara. (See under Parāśara).

(ix) Vasiṣṭha and Mucukunda. See under Mucukunda.

(x) Vasiṣṭha told Śrī Rāma the history of the dynasty of Ikṣvāku. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa Bāla Kāṇḍa, Sarga 73).

(xi) The hermitage of Vasiṣṭha was situated in the valley of mount Mahāmeru. (Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 29, Stanza 6).

(xii) The cow of Vasiṣṭha was stolen by the eight Vasus. See under Aṣṭavasus.

(xiii) Vasiṣṭha was the teacher of Bhīṣma. (Mahābhārata Ādi Parva, Chapter 103, Stanza 45).

(xiv) Vasiṣṭha participated in the Birth festival of Arjuna. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 122, Stanza 51).

(xv) Vasiṣṭha tried to commit suicide. (See under Adṛśyanti).

(xvi) Vasiṣṭha shone in the assembly of Brahmā. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 11, Stanza 19).

(xvii) In the Bhārata-battle an effort was made by Vasiṣṭha to dissuade Droṇa from the battle. But it was in vain. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 190, Stanza 33).

(xviii) Vasiṣṭha was one of the hermits who came to visit Bhīṣma on his bed of arrows. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 47, Stanza 7).

(xix) Once rain failed in the world and creatures became miserable. At that time Vasiṣṭha fed the creatures. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 137).

(xx) Once Indra lost the Devaloka (the world of the Devas) and he became gloomy and miserable. Vasiṣṭha went to him and consoled him. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 291, Stanza 91).

(xxi) Vasiṣṭha was one of the hermits who were Brahmin tribal workers. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 296, Stanza 17).

(xxii) Once Vasiṣṭha imparted knowledge to King Janaka. This exhortation is given in Mahābhārata, (Śānti Parva, six chapters from 302).