

in large numbers, he sent his nephew Āstika to find out a way to rescue the perishing nāgas. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 53, Stanza 20).

(iv) Vāsuki participated in the birth festival of Arjuna. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 122, Stanza 71).

(v) Vāsuki advised the Nāgas to give the divine juice to Bhīmasena, in accordance with the request of Āryaka. (See under Bhīmasena).

(vi) Vāsuki stays in the palace of Varuṇa worshipping him. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 8).

(vii) Arjuna once allured the sister of Vāsuki. (M.B. Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 2, Stanza 14).

(viii) In Tripuradahana (the burning of Tripura) Vāsuki acted as the bow-string of Śiva and as the axle of his chariot. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 34, Stanza 22).

(ix) In the fight between Arjuna and Karṇa, Vāsuki was a well-wisher of Arjuna. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 87, Stanza 43).

(x) The Devas anointed Vāsuki as the King of the Nāgas. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 37, Stanza 30).

(xi) Vāsuki gave Subrahmaṇya two followers named Jaya and Mahājaya. (Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 52).

(xii) Vāsuki is one of the seven nāgas which hold up the earth. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 150, Stanza 41).

(xiii) When Balabhadrarāma went to Pātāla after his death, Vāsuki had gone there to receive him. (M.B. Mausala Parva, Chapter 4, Stanza 15).

(xiv) Once Vāsuki and Vāyu tried to find out who was the more powerful of the two, in consequence of which contest Mount Trikūṭa was broken from the vicinity of Mahāmeru and was thrown into the southern Sea. (See under Trikūṭa).

(xv) Words such as Nāgarāt, Nāgarāja, Nāgendra, Pannaga, Pannagarāt, Sarparāja, and so on are used as synonyms of Vāsuki in Mahābhārata.

VĀSUKITĪRTHA. A holy place situated on the banks of the Gaṅgā in Prayāga. Bhogavatīrtha is another name of this holy bath. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata Vana Parva, Chapter 85, Stanza 86, that by taking bath in this holy tīrtha one could attain the fruits of performing the horse-sacrifice.

VĀSUMĀN I. (VASUMANAS). A King of the dynasty of Ikṣvāku.

1) *Genealogy.* Descended from Viṣṇu in the following order. Brahmā - Marīci - Kaśyapa - Vivasvān - Vaivasvata Manu - Ikṣvāku - Vikukṣi - Śaśāda - Kakutstha (Purañjaya) - Anenas - Prthulāśva - Viṣvagaśva - Prasenajit - Yuvanāśva - Māndhātā - Purukutsa - Trasadasya - Anaraṇya - Haryaśva - Vasumanas.

2) *Birth.* Haryaśva, the King of Ayodhyā married Mādhavī, the daughter of Yayāti. Vasumanas was their son. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 86, Stanza 56).

3) *Marriage proposal.* A damsel named Hariṇī was proposed to be given in marriage to Vasumanas. But another man carried her away. To know the story see under Durmada II.

4) *Other information.*

(i) Once Yayāti who fell from heaven on the earth met with Vasumanas. Because of the merit of mingling with good people Yayāti attained heaven again. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 86, Stanza 56).

(ii) Vasumanas entered heaven along with Kings

like Aṣṭaka and others. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 93, Stanza 16).

(iii) Vasumanas sits in the palace of Yama and praises him. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 8, Stanza 13).

(iv) He went on pilgrimages and earned fame and wealth. (M.B. Vana Parva Chapter 94, Stanza 17).

(v) He was present at the horse-sacrifice of Aṣṭaka the son of Viśvāmītra. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 198, Stanza 1).

(vi) He once got into the aerial chariot of Indra and came and stood over the city of Virāta and witnessed the battle between Arjuna and the teacher Kṛpa. (M.B. Virāṭa Parva, Chapter 56, Stanza 9).

(vii) It was near Vasumanas and others who had been performing the sacrifice of Vājapeya and worshipping Mahāviṣṇu, that Yayāti fell from heaven. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 121, Stanza 10).

(viii) Vasumanas became famous under the name Dānapati (lord of donations) because he had given Yayāti, the fruits of his good deeds. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 122, Stanza 9).

(ix) While he was the King of Kosala he conducted a consultation with Bṛhaspati as to how he could bring about the prosperity of the country. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 68, Stanza 6).

VASUMĀN II. (VASUMANAS). A King who was famous in the council of Yudhiṣṭhira. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 4, Stanza 32).

VASUMĀN (VASUMANAS) III. A fire. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 221, Stanza 27, that if a woman during her monthly course happens to touch the holy fire, an aṣṭakapāla should be offered to the fire Vasumān. This fire called Vasumān now stays in the palace of Brahmā. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 11, stanza 30).

VASUMĀN (VASUMANAS) IV. A prince of the family of Janaka. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Śānti Parva, Chapter 309, that a hermit had given him exhortations regarding righteousness.

VASUMITRA I. An ancient Kṣatriya King. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Stanza 41 that this King was born from a portion of the asura named Vikṣara, the son of Danāyu.

VASUMITRA II. A King born of the dynasty of Śuṅga. It is mentioned in Bhāgavata, Skandha 10, that Bhadraka, otherwise called Ūdānika was the son of this King.

VASUPRABHA. A warrior of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 63).

VASUŚARMĀ. See under Dharmāśarmā I.

VASUṢEṆA. A name of Karṇa at the time of his boyhood. He was called by the name Vasuṣeṇa by his foster-father Adhiratha and his foster-mother Rādhā. (See under Karṇa).

VASUŚRĪ. An attendant of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 46, Stanza 14).

VASVANANTA. The father of Yuyudha, and the son of Upagupta. He was the King of Videha. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

VASVOKASĀRĀ. One of the seven branches of the Ganges. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 6, Stanza 48).

VĀṬA. One of the five attendants given to Subrahmaṇya by the god Amśa. The five attendants were Vaṭa, Parigha, Bhīma, Dahati, and Dahana. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 34).