

string and went to every house saying "Look, here am I, a slayer of Brahmin. Please, give alms to the drunkard and killer of a Brahmin." Saying thus he walked from house to house and took alms. But he did not get remission of Brahmahatyā (killing of a Brahmin).

Filled with grief and sorrow and mental worry the sinner Vidura sat in the shade of a tree. At that time Candraśarmā, a Brahmin of Magadha came there. He was a wicked man who had killed his teacher because of inordinate lust in consequence of which he had been forsaken by his own people. Vidura asked Candraśarmā who wore no sign of a Brāhmaṇa, what he was. Candraśarmā told his story to Vidura who in return told him his sinful acts.

At this time another Brahmin named Vedaśarmā came there. He also was a sinner. The three of them told each other about their sinful acts. At this time Vallāla, a Vaiśya came there. He was a drunkard who had killed cows. These four desperate sinners travelled together and visited several tīrthas (holy baths). But they did not get remission of their sins. At last they started for Kālañjaragiri.

While these desperate sinners were living in Kālañjara a poor Brahmin came there. He asked them why they were so sad. They told him everything. When he heard their stories he felt pity for them. The old Brahmin said "You sinners should go to Prayāga, Puškara, Sarvatīrtha and Vārāṇasī and bathe in the Gaṅgā on New Moon days and you will become free from sin." They obeyed the old Brahmin and went to the holy places told by him. Thus Vidura and his friends became sinless.

VIDŪRA. A king of the Kuru dynasty. He was the son born to the great king Kuru by Śubhāngī, a damsel of Dāsārha family. Vidūra married Sampriyā, a princess of Madhu royal family. A son named Anaśvā was born to her. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 95, Stanzas 39-40).

VIDURĀGAMANARĀJYALĀBHAPARVA. A sub-section of Ādi Parva, comprising chapters 199 to 217, in Mahābhārata.

VIDŪRATHA I. A king of the Vṛṣṇi dynasty. Information got from Mahābhārata about this king is given below.

(i) Vidūratha also was present at the Svayamvara marriage of Draupadī. (M. B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 185, Stanza 19).

(ii) In Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 218, Stanza 10, mention is made that the brightness of this king increased after his participation in the festival conducted on mount Raivata.

(iii) Vidūratha was one of the seven famous and mighty kings of the Yadu dynasty. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 60, Stanza 14).

(iv) Vidūratha was a close friend of Śiśupāla, Śālva, Jarāsandha and so on. Jarāsandha employed this Vidūratha as the guardian of the Eastern entrance of the city of Mathurā. When Śrī Kṛṣṇa killed his brother Dantavakra, Śālva, Śiśupāla and others, Vidūratha ran to take revenge on Kṛṣṇa. But he was killed by Śrī Kṛṣṇa. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 10).

(v) It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Svargārohaṇa Parva, Chapter 5, Stanza 16, that after death he joined the Viśvadevas.

VIDŪRATHA II. A king of the Pūru dynasty. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 49, Stanza

75, that Rkṣavān hid the son of this king in a mountain and saved him from the Kṣatriya-extirmination of Paraśurāma and at that time spotted leopards brought up this child.

VIDŪRATHA III. A king who was the friend of the hermit Bhalanda. This king had two sons named Suniti and Sumati and a daughter named Mudāvati. One day while Vidūratha was hunting in the forest, he saw a cleavage on the earth caused by the yawning of Kujrmbhāsura. The king stood there for a while looking at the cleavage. Then the hermit Suvrata who had been standing close by approached the king and said, "This asura Kujrmbha has a divine pestle with him. Because of the possession of this pestle he has become invincible and is a threat to the whole world."

Vidūratha, who knew everything from Suvrata, lived cautiously. One day his daughter was carried away by this Kujrmbhāsura. Suniti and Sumati confronted the asura to rescue their sister but were made captives. Finally Vatsapri, the son of the hermit Bhalanda killed the Rākṣasa (giant) and liberated princess Mudāvati. (Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa, Chapter 113).

VIDŪRATHA I. A king born in the family of Bharata, the son of Duṣyanta. The father of this king was Suratha and his son was Sārvabhauma. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 10).

VIDŪRATHA II. Brother of Dantavakra. When Śrī Kṛṣṇa had defeated Dantavakra, his brother Viḍūratha came to fight with Śrī Kṛṣṇa and was killed in the fight. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 10).

VIDUṢA. A king of the Aṅga dynasty. Ghṛta was the father of king Viduṣa and Pracetas was his son. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 277).

VIDYĀ I. A maid of Devi Umā. (Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 231, Stanza 48).

VIDYĀ II. A deity. This deity is worshipped as the deity of three Vedas which are the most important of the religious or Vedic literature. Mention is made about this deity in the preface of Ṛgvedabhāṣya by Sāyaṇa, as follows.

Once Vidyā approached a Brahmin and said "I am your wealth. Your duty is to impart me to disciples who are pure, celibate, law-abiding and active, and who protect the treasure. I hate disciples who are jealous."

VIDYĀDHARA(S). A group of semi-gods. Vidyādharas, Apsarases (celestial maids), Yakṣas, Rākṣasas, Gandharvas, Kinnaras and so on are semigods. Of these Kinnaras are lute-players, and Vidyādharas wear garlands, and all these groups live in the sky. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 51). It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 56, Stanza 8, that when attracted by spells and incantations, Indra went to the Sarpasatra (serpent sacrifice) of Janamejaya, the Vidyādharas walked behind him (Indra).

VIDYĀNĀTHA (AGASTYA). A Sanskrit writer on rhetorics. He was also called Agastya. He is the author of Pratāparudriyam. The real name of Pratāparudriyam is Partāparudrayaśobhūṣaṇam.

He was a member of the court of King Pratāparudradeva who ruled over the Kingdom of Wārāṅgal from 1295 to 1323 A.D. He has written a drama of five acts, under the name "Pratāparudra Kalyāṇa." Pratāparudriyam is a book on rhetorical figures.