

- VIDYĀSĀGARA.** Father of Bhartṛhari. See under Bhartṛhari.
- VIDYĀTĪRTHA.** A holy place in India. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 34, Stanza 52, that those who bathe in this tīrtha (bath) would get knowledge.
- VIDYOTA.** The son born to Sage Dharma, by his wife Lambā, the daughter of Dakṣa. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 6).
- VIDYOTĀ.** A celestial maid of Alakāpurī. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 19, Stanza 45, that Vidyotā took part in the dance performed in honour of Aṣṭāvakra, the hermit.
- VIDYUDDHARA.** A Deva Gandharva. (See under Nahuṣa).
- VIDYUDRŪPA.** A Yakṣa who was the favourite of Kubera. This Yakṣa married Madanikā, the daughter of Menakā. Once when these two were sitting on mount Kailāsa and drinking liquor the bird Kaṅka born of the family of Garuḍa came there. Vidyudrūpa killed Kaṅka after a small fight. Hearing about the death of Kaṅka, his brother Kandara came to avenge the death of his brother. A fierce battle ensued between the two, in which Vidyudrūpa met with death. After this Madanikā accepted Kandara as her husband. (Mārkaṇḍeya Purāṇa, 2, 4, 28).
- VIDYUDVARCAS.** An eternal god concerned with offerings to the manes. (Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 31).
- VIDYUJJIHVA I.** A Rākṣasa (giant). This Vidyujjihva was a friend of Ghaṭotkaca. He was killed by Duryodhana in the battle of Bhārata. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 91, Stanza 20).
- VIDYUJJIHVA II.** Husband of Śūrpaṅkhā. A son named Śambhukumāra was born to the couple. As this son Śambhukumāra was standing like a young tree in the forest Daṇḍakāraṇya, Lakṣmaṇa cut it down by his sword. Thus Śambhukumāra died. (Kamba Rāmāyaṇa. Araṇya Kāṇḍa).
- VIDYUJJIHVA III.** One of the important Rākṣasa followers of Rāvaṇa. This giant, by his sorcery and witch-craft, showed Sītā, the head cut off from the body of Śrī Rāma and his broken bow, to make her consent to become the wife of Rāvaṇa. He repeated this stratagem on several occasions. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Uttara Kāṇḍa, Sarga 12).
- VIDYUJJIHVA IV.** One of the sons born to Viśravas by his wife Vākā. Mention is made in Vāyu Purāṇa that this Rākṣasa lives in the city called Arvāktala in Pātāla (underworld) known as Mahātala.
- VIDYUNMĀLĪ I.** A son of Tārakāsura. He was one of the Tripuras. (For details see under Tripura).
- VIDYUNMĀLĪ II.** A mighty and brave Rākṣasa who was a friend of Rāvaṇa. After the death of Rāvaṇa, this asura, who lived in the Pātāla (underworld) stole away the sacrificial horse of Śrī Rāma to avenge the death of Rāvaṇa. Śatrughna killed Vidyunmālī and redeemed the sacrificial horse. (Padma Purāṇa, Pātāla Khaṇḍa).
- VIDYŪTĀ.** A celestial maid of Alakāpurī. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 19, Stanza 45, that this celestial maid performed a dance in honour of the hermit Aṣṭāvakra.
- VIDYUTĀKṢA.** A warrior of Subrahmaṇya. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 62).
- VIDYUTKEŚA.** A Rākṣasa (giant). (For details see under Praheti).
- VIDYUTKEŚĪ.** A Rākṣasa King. The notorious Sukeśī was the son of this King. (See under Sukeśī).
- VIDYUTPARṆĀ.** A celestial maid born to Kaśyapa-prajāpati by his wife Pradhā. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, that celestial maids such as Alambuṣā, Vidyutparṇā, Miśrakeśī, Tilottamā and such others were famous for their beauty.
- VIDYUTPRABHA I.** See under Muktaṅghalaketu.
- VIDYUTPRABHA II.** A hermit. (Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 125).
- VIDYUTPRABHA III.** A Dānava (Asura). This asura pleased Rudradeva by penance and acquired from him the control of all the three worlds for one lakh of years, the recognition as a follower of Śiva and the kingdom of Kuśadvīpa, as boons. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 14).
- VIDYUTPRABHĀ I.** Ten celestial maids of Northern quarter. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 111, Stanza 21).
- VIDYUTPRABHĀ II.** Grand-daughter of Mahābālī. (See under Śrīdatta).
- VIGĀHANA.** A famous King, born in Mukuṭa Vamśa. (Mahābhārata, Udyoga Parva, Chapter 74, Stanza 16).
- VIGHANA.** A giant on the side of Rāvaṇa. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Sundara Kāṇḍa, Sarga 6).
- VIGRAHA I.** One of the two attendants given to Subrahmaṇya by the ocean. The other one was Saṅgraha. (M.B. Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Stanza 50).
- VIGRAHA II.** One of the six attributes of Kings. (See under Ṣaḍguṇa).
- VIGRAHA III.** (Image).
- 1) *General information.* God, who is not discernible to the outward senses, is given embodiment and consecrated in places of worship by people. These figures are called Vighras (idols or images). People worship Śālagrāma, (a kind of ammonite found in the river Gaṇḍakī), Bāṇaliṅga (Phallus), mystical diagrams, animals, birds, trees, rivers, lakes, places of death etc. and so many other things.
- 2) *The different kinds of Vighras.* Vighras are of three groups. They are :- (1) Mysterious (2) Evident-mysterious (3) Evident. Śālagrāma, Phallus etc. belong to the group mysterious. The Mukhaliṅga, considered to be the image of Trimūrti (Brahmā, Viṣṇu, Śiva) in the Elephanta cave, belongs to the group Evident. The image of Phallus is Evident-mysterious. In the first, there is no form or figure. In the second there are parts of the figure. The image which shows the entire figure is Evident.
- Some gods and goddesses possess two appearances, peaceful and fierce. Those who wish to succeed in performing cruel deeds and to vanquish enemies, worship fierce gods whereas those who wish for peace, worship peaceful Gods. Viśvarūpa, (assuming all shapes), Narasiṃha (the man-lion), Vaṭapatraśāyī (as lying on banyan-leaf) and Paraśurāma are fierce forms of Viṣṇu. Destroying Kāma (cupid) Gaja and Tripura are fierce forms of Śiva worshipped by some people. Generally temples with images in this form are erected outside the village or city.
- Owing to the differences, in the making and the materials used, the images are divided into three groups.