

Hiraṇyākṣa and the daughter of Kaśyapa and Diti. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Amśa I, Chapter 15).

(ii) It was this Vipracitti who took rebirth later as Jarāsandha. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Stanza 4).

(iii) Vipracitti stays in the palace of Varuṇa praising and glorifying him. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 9, Stanza 12).

(iv) When Mahāviṣṇu took the form of Vāmana and began to measure the three worlds, Vipracitti with some asuras surrounded Vāmana. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Dākṣiṇātya pāṭha, Chapter 38).

(v) In Mahābhārata, Śalya Parva, Chapter 31, Stanza 12, a statement occurs to the effect that in days of old, Mahāviṣṇu took the form of Indra and killed Vipracitti.

(vi) In the war between Devas and asuras, Vipracitti was killed by Indra. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Chapter 47, Stanza 11).

VIPRTHU. A Kṣatriya of Vṛṣṇi dynasty. The following information is available about him in Mahābhārata.

(i) Viprthu was present at the Svayamvara marriage of Draupadī. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 185, Stanza 18).

(ii) He participated in the festival conducted on the mountain Raivata. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 218, Stanza 10).

(iii) Viprthu was a member of the group of Yādavas who took the dowry to Hastināpura in the marriage between Arjuna and Subhadrā. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 220, Stanza 32).

(iv) Viprthu stayed in the Palace of Yudhiṣṭhira. (M.B. Sabhā Parva, Chapter 4, Stanza 30).

VIPRTHU II. An ancient king in India. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Śānti Parva, Chapter 294, Stanza 20, that Viprthu had been the emperor of the world.

VIPULA I. Brother of Balabhadrarāma. The sons born to Vasudeva by Rohiṇī were Balabhadrarāma, Gada, Sāraṇa, Durdama, Vipula, Dhruva and Kṛta. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 10).

VIPULA II. A mountain near Girivraja, the capital city of Magadha. Mention is made about this mountain in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 21, Stanza 2.

VIPULA III. A hermit who was born in the dynasty of Bhṛgu. There is a story showing how this hermit protected the wife of his teacher from Indra while he was the disciple of the hermit Devaśarmā, in Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 40. The story is given below: Ruci, the wife of the hermit Devaśarmā, was extremely beautiful. Devaśarmā was aware of the fact that Indra had often looked at his wife with covetous eyes. He had to perform a sacrifice. But he feared that if he went away from the hermitage his wife would be carried away by Indra. At last he called his beloved disciple Vipula and revealed the secret to him. The teacher told his disciple that Indra was a libertine as well as a magician and that he would appear in various forms to entice Ruci, and asked him to protect Ruci even at the cost of his life. Then Devaśarmā left the hermitage for the sacrifice.

Vipula followed the wife of his teacher, wherever she went. He feared that Indra might come even unseen by anybody. So he decided to get inside Ruci by supernatural powers of Yoga. He made Ruci to sit in front of him and stare into his eyes and through the rays of her eyes he entered inside her.

Knowing that Devaśarmā had left the hermitage, Indra

came in front of Ruci. By the power of Stambhana (suppressing the use of faculties by mantra) Vipula made Ruci stand motionless staring into the face of Indra. She did not give any reply to the questions of Indra. At last Indra looked into Ruci with inward eyes and saw as in a mirror Vipula sitting inside her. With shame Indra left the place instantly.

When the teacher returned on completion of the sacrifice Vipula told him all that had taken place. The teacher was pleased and told his disciple that he might ask for any boon.

He got the boon to be a righteous man throughout his life and left the hermitage.

It was during this period that the marriage of Prabhāvatī, the sister of Ruci, took place. The marriage of Prabhāvatī with Citraratha, the king of Aṅga, was settled.

A messenger from Aṅga informed Ruci about it. Then some flowers fell from the sky near Ruci. She wore them and went to the marriage. Prabhāvatī wanted to have the same flowers. Vipula was sent to bring flowers of the same kind. As Vipula was returning with the flowers, he saw two men turning a wheel. Each of them claimed that he had turned more than the other, and quarrelled with each other. One of them pointing at Vipula, said that he who told lies would get what Vipula would undergo in hell. Vipula was worried at hearing this. He proceeded on his journey. He saw six men gambling. One of them pointed at Vipula and said "A false gamester would get what Vipula would get in hell."

Being flurried by these two talks, Vipula ran to his teacher to understand its meaning. He went to Campāpurī and saw the teacher and asked him the meaning of what he had heard. The teacher told him, that the two who turned the wheel were day and night and the six who were engaged in gambling were the six Ṛtus (seasons) and that Ṛtus and day and night are witnesses of every sinful act committed any time. Vipula became aware of his sin. While he was staying inside the wife of his teacher, his genital touched her genital and face touched face. He had not told the teacher this. But the teacher said that it need not be considered a sin because the deed was done with no bad intention.

VIRA I. An asura born to Prajāpati Kaśyapa by his wife Danu. (Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 65, Stanza 33).

VIRA II. One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 67, Stanza 103).

VIRA III. A fire. This Agni was the son born to the fire named Bharadvāja by his wife Virā. This fire has other names such as Rathaprabhu, Rathadhvāna, Kumbharetas etc. It is said that along with Somadevatā, this Agni also would get the second portion of Ājya (ghee offerings). It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 219, Stanza 9, that this mighty fire has a wife named Sarayū and a son named Siddhi.

VIRA IV. Son of a fire called Pāñcājanya. This agni is considered one of the Vināyakas. (M.B. Vana Parva, Chapter 220, Stanza 13).

VIRA V. A king in ancient India. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Śānti Parva, Chapter 4, Stanza 7, that this king had attended the Svayamvara marriage of the daughter of King Citrāṅgada of Kaliṅga.

VIRA VI. A king of the Pūru dynasty. Bṛhadratha, Kuśa, Yadu, Pratyagra, Bala and Matsyakāla were brothers of