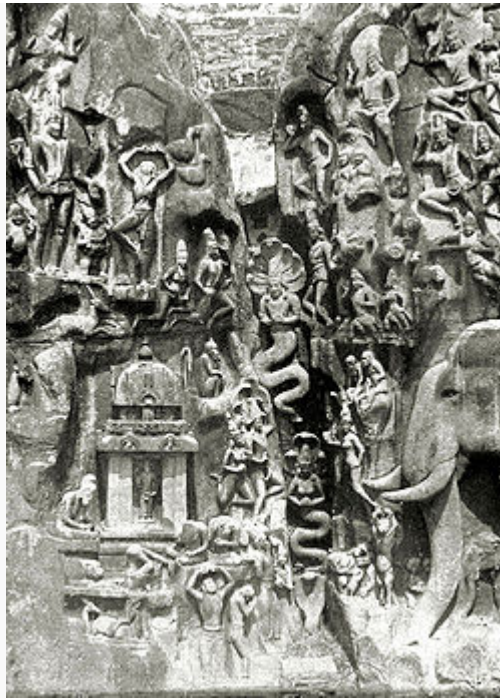


Sagara (Vedic king)



Sagara, a Vedic King and ancestor of Rama.

King Sagara is one of the greatest kings of the [Suryavansha](#) in the [Satya Yuga](#), also known as the [Ikshvaku dynasty](#), he has two wives, one a princess of the [Vidarbha](#), and the other from royal lineage of Sivi ^[1] He was an ancestor to King [Dasharatha](#) and Lord [Rama](#) (Incarnation of Sree [Vishnu](#)).



King Sagar's great-great-grandson, [Bhagiratha](#) in penance.]Birth of Ganga

King Sagara performed a horse sacrifice (Ashwamedha yajna) to prove his supremacy. Lord [Indra](#), the leader of the demigods, became fearful over the results of the yajna, so he decided to steal the horse. He left the horse at the ashram of Kapila, who was in deep meditation. King Sagar's 60,000 sons, (born of Queen [Sumati](#)), and his son [Asamanja](#) (born of Queen [Keshini](#)) were then sent to find the horse. When the 60,000 sons found the horse at Kapiladeva's ashram, they thought he had stolen it. When they prepared to attack the meditating rishi (sage), [Kapila](#) opened his eyes. Because the sons of King Sagara had disrespected such a great personality, consequently, fire emanated from their own bodies, and they were immediately burned to ashes.^[2]

Later, King Sagara sent his grandson [Amshuman](#) to retrieve the horse. [Kapiladeva](#) returned the horse and told Anshuman that the sons of King Sagar could be delivered if the Ganges descended to earth and bathed them in her waters. King Sagar's great-great-grandson, [Bhagiratha](#), eventually pleased Mother [Ganga](#), and asked her to come to earth. Mother Ganga told Bhagiratha that the force of the Ganges falling from heaven would be too great for the earth to sustain, and that she needed someone to break the fall. Bhagiratha then worshiped Lord Siva, who then agreed to accept the descending river upon his head. After the Ganga fell down on the ashes of the 60,000 sons of King Sagara they came alive and got their eternal position.

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