

= Revanta =

Revanta or Raivata (Sanskrit : रविवत , lit . " brilliant ") is a minor Hindu deity . According to the Rig @-@ Veda , Revanta is the youngest son of the sun @-@ god Surya , and his wife Sanjna (Saranya) . Revanta is chief of the Guhyakas (गुह्यका) , semi @-@ divine and demonic class entities ? like the Yakshas ? who are believed to live as forest dwellers in the Himalayas . Images and sculptures of Revanta often show him as a huntsman on a horse , with a bow and arrow .

= = Origins = =

Revanta is the brother of the Aswinikumar the God of healing and son of the Sun God .

= = Legends = =

The tale of Revanta 's birth is narrated in scriptures like Vishnu Purana and Markandeya Purana . Once , Sanjna , the daughter of celestial architect Vishvakarma and wife of Surya , unable to take the fervour of the Sun @-@ god , repaired to the forests to engage in devout austerities in the form of a mare . She placed her shadow Chhaya , who looked just like Sanjna in her position as Surya 's wife . When Surya realised that Chhaya was not the real Sanjna , he searched for Sanjna and finally found her in the forests of Uttar Kuru . There , Surya approached Sanjna disguised as a horse . Their union produced the twin @-@ Ashvins and Revanta . In Kurma Purana and Matsya Purana , the mother of Revanta is named Rajni , another wife of Surya . While in another chapter of Markandeya Purana , he is son of Chhaya and his brothers are the Saturn @-@ god Shani and Savarni Manu .

Markandeya Purna further adds he was assigned the duty as chief of Guhyakas by Surya and to protect mortals " amid the terrors of forests and other lonely places , of great conflagration , of enemies and robbers . " Sometimes , Revanta is depicted as combating robbers in reliefs .

Another tale from the Devi Bhagavata Purana has a passing reference to Revanta . Once when Revanta ? riding on the seven headed horse Uchaishravas ? went to Vishnu 's abode , Vishnu 's wife goddess Lakshmi was mesmerized with the horse and ignored a question asked by the Lord . Thus , she was cursed by her husband to become a mare .

= = Iconography = =

Markandeya Purana describes Revanta as " holding a sword and bow , clad in an armour , riding on horseback , and carrying arrows and a quiver " . Kalika Purana describes him carrying a sword in right hand and a whip in his left , seated on a white horse . Thus he is called Haya @-@ Vahana , one who rides a horse . Varahamihira describes him as accompanied by attendants for hunting .

In sculpture , Revanta is often depicted with the Guhyakas , whose chief he is , in scenes of hunting . Apart from the attributes described in texts like the sword , bow ; he sometimes also carries a cup of wine in his hand . Revanta is often depicted wearing long boots reaching up to the calves , unlike other Hindu divinities ? except Surya ? who are depicted barefoot . Revanta is depicted seated on a horse and accompanied by a hunting dog . Revanta 's attendants are depicted with various hunting weapons like lances and swords . Some of them are shown blowing a conch or beaming drums or holding an umbrella over the head of their lord , the umbrella being the symbol of royalty . Also , some of them are depicted as flying or holding wine or water jars . Sometimes , an attendant carries a dead boar in his shoulder or the dog chasing a boar .

= = Worship = =

Revanta was worshipped as guardian deity of warriors and horses , protector from the dangers of forests and the patron god of hunting . The worship of Revanta is closely associated with Saura , cult of Surya . Often , scriptures like Vishnudharmottara Purana and Kalika Purana recommend

worship of Revanta alongside Surya or according to the rituals of Sun worship . Shabha @-@ kalpa @-@ druma records Revanta 's worship after Surya 's , in the Hindu month of Ashvin by warriors . Nakula , the fourth Pandava , is believed to have written Ashavashastram on horses . He suggests worship of Raivata to protect horses from ghosts .

The worship of Revanta was popular in the early @-@ mediaeval period , particularly in Rajasthan . Revanta is mostly depicted in Vaishnava and Surya temples . There is a stone inscription that talks about a temple to Revanta , as the principal deity , in Vikranapur (modern Kotgaph , Madhya Pradesh) built by the Kalachuri king Ratnadeva II .