

**भेम्नि** ( fire personified ) Son of Kas'apa and Aditi. He is generally described as having two faces, three legs and seven arms or tongues (flames) and riding a ram or borne in a carriage drawn by red horses. Swaha' is his wife and Pa'vaka, Pavama'na and S'uchi are his sons. He gave the Ga'ndi'va to Arjuna.

**अच** A demon in the service of Kansa. He assumed the form of a vast serpent to devour Krishna's companions, but was killed by the latter.

**अंगद** Son of Va'li, a monkey-king, and Tara'. He was one of the chief monkeys in Rama's force, and was sent out on an embassy to Lanka. His expostulations with Ravana are a piece of the most stirring and persuasive eloquence.

**अज** Son of Raghu and father of Das'aratha. Kalidasa describes in glowing terms the life of Aja, particularly his marriage with Indumati, a princess of the Bhojas, and his lamentations at her unexpected death.

**अजमीद** An ancestor of Yudhishthira.

**अजमिल** A Bra'hmana of Ka'nyakubja, who was attached to a S'udra woman and her children. While calling out his son named Na'ra'yana he heard the conversation of the servants of Yama and Vishnu and repented.

**अंजना** The wife of a monkey, named Kesari, and the mother of Hanumat, the celebrated monkey-chieftain of Rama. She is said to have been impregnated by the desire of Marut; hence the name Maruti ( the wind-born ).

**अभि** A Prajapati or progenitor. He was married to Anasuya and was the father of Dattatreya. The moon is said to have

been produced from his eye, ( R. II. 75 ). In Rama's peregrinations through the Dandaka forest, the sage entertained him at his hermitage, and his wife blessed Sita with a pigment which never wore out and was proof against any inclemency of weather. As a Ris'i he is one of the stars of the Great Bear.

**असीति** The daughter of Daksha and wife of Kashyapa by whom she was mother of Vishnu, Indra and other gods. The twelve A'dityas are her sons.

**अनिरुद्ध** The son of Pradyumna and grandson of Krishna. He was beloved by Usha, the daughter of Bana. He was secretly conveyed during night to Usha's room, which was rigidly sentinelled, by the magical power of Chitrakleha, friend of Usha. After a time he was detected and reported to Bana. A fierce fight ensued between Bana and him. But he proved invincible. Bana, foiled in his attempt of subduing him with arms, contrived his capture by means of his magical faculties. Aniruddha was freed from his captivity by Krishna who utterly defeated Bana and humbled him down.

**अंधक** A demon with thousand heads and arms, killed by S'iva as he attempted to carry off the Pa'rjita tree from the heaven.

**अभिमन्यु** Son of Arjuna by Subhadra, renowned for his strength and valour. He was married to Uttara, the daughter of king Vira'ta. He fought with distinguished valour on the first day of the great war, cutting down the ensign in Bhis'ma's chariot. On the second day he slew a son of Duryodhana and when attacked by the latter was rescued by Arjuna. On the