

(iii) Yadu was the son of Devayānī and the grandson of Śukrācārya. Although Yadu was a hero, he was dull-witted. He did not obey his father. He used to despise his father and brothers. His capital city was Hastināpura. He became dull-witted after the loss of his kingdom by the curse of his father. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 149).

4) *The end of Yadu Vamśa.* Śrī Kṛṣṇa was one of the most important members of the Yadu Vamśa. That family continued only for 36 years more after the end of the Bhārata Yuddha. At the end of the thirtysix years, evil omens began to appear in Dvārakā. Whirlwinds began to blow furiously. Frightened birds began to fly helter-skelter. Rivers began to flow upwards. The whole land was enveloped in mist. Comets continued to drop from heaven, scattering sparks of fire. The sun's disc was eclipsed with clouds of dust.

At that time, one day, the sages Viśvāmitra, Kaṇva and Nārada happened to come to Dvārakā. A band of Yādavas, under the leadership of Sāmba, gathered round the sages to make fun of them. They dressed Sāmba like a pregnant woman and asked the sages what child "she" would bear. The enraged sages replied that the "Child" would be an iron pestle which would be the cause of the death of all the Yādavas. Besides, they added that, with the exception of Rāma, (Balabhadra Rāma) and Kṛṣṇa, the whole of Yādava Vamśa would come to ruin.

Next day Sāmba did give birth to an iron pestle. The frightened Yādavas recalled the curse of the sages. They reported the matter to their king. The king, in deep gloom, had the pestle filed into dust and ordered his men to throw the dust into the sea.

People recalled Gāndhārī's curse on Śrī Kṛṣṇa after the Bhārata Yuddha. The curse was that the family of Śrī Kṛṣṇa who was the cause of all mischief, would be wiped out within a period of 36 years.

At that time, women began to be stolen from Dvārakā every night by a dark woman monster. Śrī Kṛṣṇa's weapon, Cakra slipped out of Kṛṣṇa's grip and rose up to heaven, in the very presence of the Vṛṣṇis. Seeing these evil omens, the alarmed Vṛṣṇis and Andhakas began to leave the place on a pilgrimage. They reached the shore of Prabhāsa tirtha. The Uddhavas parted company with the Yādavas there. Nobody prevented the Uddhavas. Śrī Kṛṣṇa who saw that the end of the Yādavas was approaching, also kept silent. The Yādava leaders in despair, took to drinking. Intoxicated by drinking they began to quarrel. The particles of the iron pestle thrown into the sea, were carried and deposited on the shore by the waves. They began to sprout into a kind of grass. The blades of this grass soon transformed themselves into iron pestles. The Yādavas pulled them out and began attacking each other with them. Most of them were beaten to death by their own kinsfolk. Śrī Kṛṣṇa who was in a state of trance in "Yogāsana", was hit on his toe by an arrow shot by a hunter and he fell into Samādhi. Balabhadra Rāma renounced his body and went to Pātāla.

After that the sea advanced and submerged the whole of Dvārakā. (M.B. Mausala Parva).

YADU II. There is another Yadu mentioned in the Purāṇas, who was the son of Uparicara Vasu. Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 68, Verse 31, says that this Vasu was never defeated by anyone at any time.

YADU III. King of Yadus. There are references to this king in many places in the 1st Maṇḍala of Ṛgveda.

YĀJA. A sage born in Kaśyapa gotra. (For further details, see the word Upayāja and Pāñcālī).

YAJATA. A Yajñakartā (Performer of Yajñas) celebrated in the Ṛgveda.

YAJÑĀ. An incarnation of Mahāviṣṇu. Svāyambhuva Manu had two sons, Priyavrata and Uttānapāda and three daughters, Ākūti, Devahūti and Prasūti. Ruci Prajāpati married Ākūti. Yajña was their son. Devī Bhāgavata, 8th Skandha mentions that this Yajña was an incarnation of Ādi Nārāyaṇa.

Yajña had a sister named Dakṣiṇā. They were twins. They married each other. The twelve sons who were born to them were the Devas known as Yāmas, during the Svāyambhuva Manvantara. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Part I, Chapter 7).

Yajña's twelve sons were:—Toṣa, Pratoṣa, Santoṣa, Bhadra, Śānti, Iḍaspati, Iddhma, Kavi, Vibhu, Sraghna, Sudeva and Virocaka. Their father Yajña was the Indra of Svāyambhuva Manvantara. (Bhāgavata, 4th Skandha).

YAJÑABĀHU. An ancient sage who was the son of Priyavrata and grandson of Svāyambhuva Manu. Svāyambhuva Manu had two famous sons named Priyavrata and Uttānapāda. Of these, Priyavrata married Surūpā and Barhiṣmatī, the two daughters of Viśvakarmā. Yajñabāhu was the son of Priyavrata by Surūpā. The ten sons born to Priyavrata and Surūpā were:—Agnīdhra, Iddhmajihva, Yajñabāhu, Mahāvira, Rukmaśukra, Ghrtaṛṣṭha, Savana, Medhātithi, Vitihotra and Kavi. They had a daughter, Ūrjjasvatī. Bhāgavata, 8th Skandha).

YAJÑADATTA I. A youthful sage. In Agni Purāṇa. Chapter 6, it is stated that this youth was shot dead with an arrow by Daśaratha, mistaking him for an elephant, on the bank of the river Sarayū. But Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa says that the name of the boy-sage who was shot dead by Daśaratha was "Śravaṇa". For more details see 3rd Para under Daśaratha.

YAJÑADATTA II. A Brāhmaṇa. There was a Brāhmaṇa village called Mahat at the foot of the Yāmuna mountain, between the rivers Gaṅgā and Yamunā. This Brāhmaṇa was born and brought up here. There is a story in Padma Purāṇa, Chapter 92, about him, which says that by mistake he was taken to hell by Kāla's messenger and that he was reluctant to leave hell. The story is as follows:—

Once Yama (Kāla) ordered his agent to bring the Brāhmaṇa named Yajñadatta, who lived in Mahat village, born in Vasiṣṭha gotra and was gentle, scholarly and well-versed in Yajña practices. He was specially warned that he should not make a mistake as there was another Brāhmaṇa with the same name who lived in the neighbourhood and who resembled Yajñadatta in appearance, learning and in every other respect. But in spite of Yama's specific warning, his agent brought the wrong person.

Yama, with his sense of justice, received him with due respect and allowed him to return to the world. But Yajñadatta was not willing to return to the world.

YAJÑADATTA III. See under Pāṭalīputra.

YAJÑAŚARMĀ. A Brāhmaṇa made famous in the Purāṇas. He was the son of Śivaśarmā. (For detailed story, see under Śivaśarmā).