(iv) In the battle of Bhārata, Vivimsati confronted Bhīmasena and Sutasoma and was killed. (M.B. Drona Parva, Chapter 25, Stanza 93).

VIVINDHYA. An asura. Mention is made in Mahābhārata Vana Parva, Ch. 16, Stanza 22, that this asura fought with Cārudeṣṇa, the son of Rukmini and was killed.

VIVITSU. One of the hundred sons of Dhṛtarāṣṭra. He was killed by Bhīmasena in the battle of Bhārata. (M.B.

Karna Parva, Chapter 51, Stanza 12).

VIYAMA. One of the three sons of the hermit Satasriga. He killed Sudeva, the commander of the army of Ambarīṣa and he also was killed in a battle. (M.B. Śānti Parva, Dāksinātya Pātha, Chapter 98).

VIYATI. A son of Nahuṣa. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9;

Visnu Purāņa, Chapter 4).

VRAJA. A king born in the family of Manu Svayambhuva. He was the son of Havirdhana. Six sons named Pracinabarhis, Sukra, Gaya, Kṛṣṇa, Vraja and Ajina, were born to Havirdhāna by his wife Dhisanā. (Agni Purāna,

VRAJANA. Aking born to emperor Ajamīḍha by his wife Keśini. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 94, Stanza 31, that he was the brother of Jahnu and

VRAJĪRAVĀN. (VŖJINAVĀN). A king of the Yaduclan. He was the son of Krostu and father of Kuśańku

(Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

VRATĀ. Controls ordained by Vedic Samhitās are called Vratas. It is known as tapas (penance) also. Vratas are Avadama etc. When it involves mortifications of the body (tapas) it is called tapas or penance. Controlling the organs of sense is called niyama (control). Vrata, fast and restraining or control are always good. (Agni Purāna, Chapter 175).

VRDDHAGARGYA. An ancient hermit. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Anu śāsana Parva, Chapter 125, Stanza 77, that this hermit had conversed with the Manes

about offerings made to them.

VRDDHAKANYA. Daughter of the hermit named Kunigarga. (For further details see under Kunigarga). VRDDHAKSATRA I. The father of Jayadratha, the king

of Sindhu. (See under Jayadratha 1).

VRDDHAKSATRA II. A king born in the Puru dynasty. He favoured the Pandavas. It is mentioned in Mahabhārata, Droṇa Parva, Chapter 200, Stanza 73, that in the Bhārata battle, Asvatthāmā killed him.

VRDDHAKŞATRA III. A king of the Vṛṣṇi dynasty. This king took the side of the Pandavas in the Bharata battle and was killed by Balhika. (M.B. Drona Parva,

Chapter 24, Stanza. 49).

VRDDHAKSEMA. The king of the country Trigarta. He was the father of Susarmā. (M.B. Adi Parva,

Chapter 185, Stanza 9).

VRDDHASARMA. One of the five sons, born to the king Ayus by his wife Svarbhanu. The remaining four sons were Nahusa, Raji, Gaya and Anenas. (M.B. Adi

Parva, Chapter 75, Stanza 25).

VRDDHIKĀ. A kind of goblin. It is mentioned in Mahā-Bharata, Vana Parva, Chapter 231, Stanza 16, that once the semen of Siva fell scattered over the trees and that these goblins were born from that. Human flesh is the food of these goblins. It is said those who want children need only worship these Vrddhikas.

VRIHIDRAUNIKA PARVA. A sub-section of Vana

Parva, comprising Chapters 259 to 261.

VRJA. A hermit who was born in the family of emperor Prthu. Antardhāna and Vādī were the two sons of Pṛthu. A son named Havirdhana was born to Antardhāna by his wife Sikhandinī. Dhisanā who was born in the family of Agni, became the wife of Havirdhāna. Prācīnabarhis, Śukra, Gaya, Krena, Vrja and Ajina were the six sons of Havirdhāna by Dhiṣaṇā. Of these, Prācīnabarhis became a great Prajāpati. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Amsa I, Chapter 14).

VRJINIVAN. The son of Krosta who was born in the family of Manu. He was the father of hermit Uşangu (M.B. Anuśasana Parva, Chapter 147, Stanza 23).

VRKA I. A son born to Dhṛṣṭaketu, the king of Kekaya by his wife Dūrvā. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

VRKA II. A son of Šrī Krsna, born by his wife Mitra-

vindā. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 10).

VRKA III. An asura. This asura wanted to bring the Devas under his control. "How to achieve it? The only way is to please one of the three god-heads." The asura saw Nārada and asked him which of the three god-heads could easily be pleased. Nārada replied that it was Siva. Vrka resolved to please Siva and began to do penance. He cut each of his organs and offered it in the fire as oblation. At last when Vrkasura was beginning to cut his head to offer it in fire, Siva made his appearance, and asked him what his wish was. The boon he requested for, was that any one whose head he touched with his finger should die instantly.

Siva granted that boon.

The asura decided to try the boon, on the giver himself first. Terrified at this, Siva began to run. The asura chased him. At last Siva sought protection from Visnu. Assuming the form of a boy, Mahāviṣnu stood on the way and stopped Vṛkāsura, who was running after Siva. The boy asked him why he was running. The asura told the boy everything. Then the boy laughed and said "Oh! Asura! What Siva said was a lie. He has no divine power now. He was making fun of you. Not an ant would die by the touch of your fingers. You just try on your head and see for yourself." Hearing this the asura became dejected. He thought what the boy said was true. The poor creature touched his own head with his finger. The moment he touched his head, he fell down dead. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 10). This story has similarity with that of Bhasmāsura. (See under Bhasmāsura).

VRKA IV. A king. It is stated in Mahābhārata, Adi Parva, Chapter 185, Stanza 10, that this king had been present at the Svayamvara (marriage) of Draupadī. Mention is made in Mahābhārata, Karņa Parva, Chapter 25, Stanza 16, that this king was killed by a moun-

tain King in the battle of Bhārata.

VRKA V. A warrior who fought on the side of the Pāṇḍavas. He was killed by the teacher Droṇa in the battle of Bharata. (M. B. Drona Parva, Chapter 21, Stanza 16).

VRKA VI. An ancient King who was a pure vegetarian. (M. B. Anusasana Parva, Chapter 115, Stanza 63).

VRKA VII. One of the sons born to Sura by his wife Māriṣā. Vṛka married Dūrvākṣī. Two sons named Taksa and Puskara were born to the couple. (Bhagavata Skandha 9).

RKALA. A grandson of Dhruva who was the son of Uttānapāda. Two sons named Sisti and Bhavya were VŖKALA. born to Dhruva by his wife Sambhū. Succhāyā, the wife