

in the clan of Rākṣasas. Praheti remained unmarried and entered the life of penance. Heti married Bhayā the sister of Kāla. A son named Vidyutkeśa was born to the couple. Vidyutkeśa married Sālakaṭaṅkā, the daughter of Sandhyā. Sālakaṭaṅkā delivered a son. But wishing to enjoy the company of her husband, she abandoned the son and lived with her husband. The child which was as bright as the rising Sun, putting its folded fist in its mouth, cried aloud. Paramaśiva and Pārvatī who were travelling along the sky mounted on the bull, heard the cry of the infant and looked at the spot from which the cry arose. On seeing the infant, Pārvatī took pity on it. Śiva blessed the child, which instantly grew as old as its mother. Śiva gave the Rākṣasa prince immortality and a city which could travel through the sky. Pārvatī said that Rākṣasa women would, in future deliver the moment they became pregnant and that the child would grow equal to its mother in age, as soon as it was born. Sukeśa was the son of Vidyutkeśa and Sālakaṭaṅkā. Sukeśa was delighted at the boons he got, and travelled wherever he pleased, in his city. Sukeśa married Devavātī the daughter of Grāmaṇī a Gandharva. Mālī, Sumālī and Mālyavān were the sons of this couple. (Uttara Rāmāyaṇa).

2) *The city of Sukeśa fell on the ground.* Sukeśa pleased Śiva by penance. Śiva made him invincible and gave him a city which travelled through the sky. Because of these boons, the Rākṣasa became righteous and pious. He lived in the city with other Rākṣasas. Once Sukeśa went to the forest Māgadha and visited the hermits there. He asked them about the means to attain prosperity in this world and the other worlds. The hermits gave him long exhortations. They told him about the various hells given to sinners. Thus Sukeśa became righteous-minded and saintly. He returned to his city and called together all the other Rākṣasas and spoke to them about what he had learned from the hermits. He said: "The hermits taught me the means to attain heaven. They are Non-killing, Truth, not stealing, cleanliness, control of all outward going energies, liberality, kindness, forgiveness, abstinence, good usages etc. So it is my order that all of you observe these good things." The Rākṣasas were pleased at the words of Sukeśa. They began to lead a righteous life. In this way they got wealth and prosperity. Their radiance increased to such an extent that the Sun and the moon and the stars found it difficult to continue their travels.

Thus the city of the Rākṣasa shone as the sun in the day and as the moon in the night. The progress of the Sun in the day became indiscernible. Due to its brightness the Rākṣasa city seemed to be the moon and thinking that it was night, the lotus flowers folded in the day and bloomed in the night. Havoc was caused in the earth as well as in the world of the gods. The sun became unpopular. So he tried to find out the cause. At last he found out the cause. He became angry. He looked with fury at the city of the Rākṣasas. Hit by the look, the city lost its merits and began to sink down to the earth.

When the city fell down Sukeśa called Śiva and cried aloud. Śiva looked round to see what happened to his devotee. He understood that the sun was the culprit. Śiva looked at the sun with furious eyes. Instantly the sun was dropped from the Solar region to the air. The

hermits saw the Sun coming slowly to the earth. They called out loudly. "If you want to be well in falling, go and fall in Harikṣetra." The sun called out, "What is Harikṣetra?" "Harikṣetra is Vārāṇasī from Yoga'āyī to Keśavaḍarṣana", the hermits replied. Hearing this the Sun fell in Vārāṇasī. Then to lessen the heat the sun dipped and splashed in Asī tīrtha and Varuṇā tīrtha.

Brahmā knew this, and informed Śiva of it. Śiva came to Vārāṇasī and took the sun by his hands and gave him the name 'Lola' and sent him back in the chariot. After that Brahmā went to Sukeśa and sent his city with the Rākṣasas in it, back to the sky, and the Sun was fixed in the sky as before. (Vāmana Purāṇa, Chapter 15)

SUKESĪ I (SUKESĀ). See under Sukeśa.

SUKESĪ II. The daughter of the king of Gāndhāra. This Sukeśī was the wife of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Sabhā Parva, Chapter 38 that Śrī-Kṛṣṇa gave her a palace, the doors of which shone as the gold of Jāmbūnada.

SUKESĪ III. A celestial maid of Alakāpurī. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 19, Verse 45, that she performed a dance in honour of the visit of Aṣṭāvakra, in the palace of Kubera.

SUKESĪ IV. The daughter of Ketuvīrya the king of Magadha. She was married to Marutta (the third). (Markaṇḍeya Purāṇa, 128).

SUKETANA. A king of the Bhṛgu family. He was the son of Sunita and the father of Dharmaketu. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

SUKETU I. A king of the Solar dynasty. It is stated in Bhāgavata, Skandha 9 that this king was the son of Nandivardhana and the father of Devarāta.

SUKETU II. A king of the Pūru dynasty. He became famous under the name Viratha. He was one of the five sons of Bharata. The five sons were Suhotra, Suhotā, Gaya, Garbha and Suketu. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 278).

SUKETU III. A king of ancient India. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Ādi Parva, Chapter 185, Verse 9, that this Suketu and his son Sunāmā were present at the Śvayamvara marriage of Draupadī.

SUKETU IV. A son of Śiśupāla. He was killed in the battle of Bhārata by Droṇa. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 6, Verse 33).

SUKETU V. A mighty king who stood on the side of the Pāṇḍavas and fought against the Kauravas in the Bhārata-battle. This king who was the son of Citraketu, was killed by the arrow of the teacher Kṛpa. (M.B. Karṇa Parva, Chapter 54, Verse 21).

SUKETU VI. The father of Tāṭakā. It is stated in Kamba Rāmāyaṇa, Bālakāṇḍa, that this Suketu was the son of the Gandharva King Surakṣaka. (See under Tāṭakā for further details).

SUKĪ. A daughter of Kaśyapa Prajāpati. Five daughters named Krauñcī, Bhāsī, Śyenī, Dhṛtarāṣṭrī and Sukī were born to Kaśyapa by his wife Tāmrā. Krauñcī gave birth to owls. Bhāsas were born to Bhāsī and eagles and kites were born to Śyenī. Dhṛtarāṣṭrī gave birth to swans and Cakravākas. Sukī gave birth to Natā and Vinatā was the daughter of Natā. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Araṇyakāṇḍa, Sarga 14).

SUKLA. A warrior who fought on the side of the Pāṇḍavas. He was a native of Pāñcāla country.