

Suhotā-Gala-Garda-Suketu-Bṛhatkṣatra - Nara - Saṅkṛti Rantideva.

2). *His importance.* Rantideva's unique kindness is very famous in history. After the great war was over, Nārada once narrated the stories of sixteen kings to Dharmaputra. There are a number of stories relating to Rantideva's kindness, hospitality etc. He had engaged 20,000 people to cook food for guests who came to the palace everyday. He was very vigilant about treating guests day and night alike. He gifted away all wealth which had been righteously earned, to brahmins. He learned Vedas and subdued enemies by Dharma (righteousness). The very blood that flowed from the skin of cattle killed to entertain his guests formed itself into a river called Carmanvati. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 29. 21,000 cows were daily killed for the guest. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 67).

3). *Other information.*

(i) Rantideva entered Svarga by giving Vasiṣṭha warm water. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 234, Verse 17).

(ii) He once worshipped maharṣis with fruits and vegetables and achieved his desire. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 292, Verse 7).

(iii) He never ate flesh. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 115, Verse 67).

(iv) He entered heaven once by making oblations to Vasiṣṭha. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 137, Verse 6).

(v) He is recognised as one of the Mahārājas who are to be remembered both at dawn and at dusk. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 150, Verse 51).

RANṬU (The Malayālam word for 'two').

1). *Ayanas two.*

A. Uttarāyaṇa, from July-August to December-January (Dhanu). B. Dakṣiṇāyaṇa, from January-February (Makaram) to June-July (Mithunam). For the Devas Uttarāyaṇa is day and Dakṣiṇāyaṇa night. Religious-minded Hindus believe that Uttarāyaṇa is an auspicious period for death.

2). *Arthadūṣaṇas 2.* (Misuse of wealth)

(i) Spending money for bad purposes and not spending money for good purposes.

(ii) Stealing money or wealth and not giving money to poor deserving people.

3). *Alaṅkāras 2.* (Figures of speech). Arthālaṅkāra and Śabdālaṅkāra.

4). *Ausadhas 2.* (Medicines). Curatives like medicated oils and ghees, honey etc. and purgatives like vasti (enema), recanam (purgation) and vamanam (vomiting).

5). *Aids for health 2.* Cleanliness and sexual continence.

6). *Gurus 2.* (Preceptors). Actual preceptor or preceptor in effect and casual preceptor).

7). *Kaṣṭhadvayam.* Pippalī (long pepper) and Marica (Pepper)

8). *Kalahakāraṇam 2.* (Causes for quarrel). Gold and woman (Kanaka and Kāminī).

9). *Kāyadvayam (Two bodies).* Mind and body.

10). *Kāraṇadvayam (Two causes).* Upādānam (ultimate cause) and Nimittam (immediate cause).

11). *Kṣāradvayam (Two salts).* Alkaline salt (Saltpetre), Sodium Carbonate.

12). *Capaladvayam (Fickle ones 2).* Women and fools.

13). *Jñānadvayam (Knowledges 2).* Superficial knowledge and deep knowledge. (Mandajñāna and Dṛdhajñāna).

14). *Dharmadvayam (Duties 2).* Action and renunciation. (Pravṛtti and Nivṛtti).

15). *Niśādvayam.* Turmeric and Amonum Xanthorrhizon

16). *Niṣṭhādvayam.* Sādhya (knowledge) and Sādhana (action).

17). *Pakṣadvayam.* Kṛṣṇapakṣa (dark fortnight) and Śuklapakṣa moon-lit fortnight.

18). *Padyakāvyaadvayam (Poetry 2).* Lyric and Mahākāvya (epic).

19). *Pāpadvayam (Sins 2).* Original sin and acquired. (Janmapāpa and Karmapāpa).

20). *Mokṣakāraṇadvayam.* Causes for salvation, 2). Yoga and death in war.

21). *Yogadvayam.* Karma (action) and Jñāna (knowledge).

22). *Rāgadvayam (colour).* Pūrṇam (unmixed) and Janyam (mixed).

23). *Rogadvayam (Diseases 2).* (a) Physical and mental (Kāyika and Mānasika). (b) Congenital and acquired. (Sahaja and Āgantuka).

24). *Vīryadvayam.* Heat and cold.

25). *Śṛṅgāradvayam.* Love or the erotic sentiment 2). Love in union and that in separation. (Sambhoga and Vipralambha).

26). *Śrutiḍharmadvayam (Musical cadence 2).* High pitch and low pitch (Ucca and nīca).

27). *Samādhānakāraṇadvayam (Two causes for peace).* Patience or forbearance and generosity. (Kṣamā and dānaśīla).

RAPHENAKA. A nāga born in Takṣaka's dynasty. It was burnt to death at the serpent yajña of Janamejaya. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 57, Verse 8).

RASĀTALA. A particular part of Pātāla where, according to the Purāṇas, the Nivātakavacas live. The Mahābhārata contains the following information regarding Rasātala.

(1) During the deluge the Agni called Samvarta rent the earth and reached up to Rasātala. (Vana Parva, Chapter 188, Verse 69).

(2) The Rākṣasī called Kṛtyā created by the asuras once carried away Duryodhana to Pātāla. (Vana Parva, Chapter 251, Verse 29).

(3) Rasātala is the seventh stratum of the earth. Surabhi the mother of cows born from nectar lives there. (Udyoga Parva, Chapter 102, Verse 1).

(4) It is more comfortable and happy to live in Rasātala than to live either in Nāgaloka or Svarga. (Udyoga Parva, Chapter 102, Verse 14).

(5) It was in Rasātala that Mahāviṣṇu incarnated as Boar and killed the asuras with his tusk. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 206, Verse 26).

(6) Mahāviṣṇu, who assumed the form of Hayagrīva went to Rasātala, killed Madhu and Kaiṭabha and resurrected the Vedas. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 347, Verse 54).

(7) King Vasu went to Rasātala because he uttered one lie. (Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 6, Verse 34).

(8) Rasātala is Ananta's abode. Balabhadrarāma who was an incarnation of Ananta, gave up his material body at Prabhāsa tīrtha and attained Rasātala. (Svargārohaṇa Parva, Chapter 5, Verse 28).

RĀŚMIKETU. A Rākṣasa who fought on the side of Rāvaṇa against Rāma. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Sundara Kāṇḍa; Sarga 9).