

**RAŚMIVĀN.** An eternal, universal Deva (Viśvadeva). (Ānuśāsana Parva, Chapter 91, Verse 36).  
**RĀŚTRA VARDHANA.** A minister of Daśaratha. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 6).  
**RATĀ.** A daughter of Dakṣaprajāpati. Dharma married her and the Vasu called Ahar was born to the couple. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 66, Verse 17).  
**RATHACITRĀ.** A river famous in the Purāṇas. (Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 9, Verse 26).  
**RATHADHVAJA.** Father of king Kuśadhvaaja of Videha. Vedavati was his grand-daughter. (See under Vedavati).  
**RATHADHVĀNA.** Another name of Virāgni, son of Śaṁyu. (Vana Parva, Chapter 219, Verse 9).  
**RATHAGRĀṆĪ.** A warrior. He had accompanied Śatruugna who led the Aśvamedhic horse of Rāma. (Padma Purāṇa, Pātālakhaṇḍa).  
**RATHAKṚTA.** A Yakṣa who rotates in the month of Caitra along with the Āditya called Dhātā. (Bhāgavata 12th Skandha).  
**RATHĀKṢA.** A warrior of Subrahmaṇya. (Śalya Parva, Chapter 45, Verse 63).  
**RATHANTARA I.** A Sāman, which, having assumed form, worships Brahmā in his court. (Sabhā Parva, Chapter 11, Verse 30). This Rathantara sāman possesses the power to cure fainting fits. Once Vasiṣṭha restored Indra to consciousness with this Sāman. (Śānti Parva, Chapter 281, Verse 21).  
**RATHANTARA II.** Son of the Agni called Pāñcajanya. He was also called Tarasāhara. (Vana Parva, Chapter 222, Verse 7).  
**RATHANTARYĀ (RATHANTARĪ).** Mother of King Duṣyanta. She was the daughter of King Ilina and had five sons, i.e. Duṣyanta, Śūra, Bhīma, Pravasū and Vasu. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 94).  
**RATHAPRABHU.** A synonym of Virāgni, son of Śaṁyu. (Vana Parva, Chapter 219, Verse 9).  
**RATHASENA.** A valiant warrior who fought on the Pāṇḍava side against the Kauravas. His horses were very magnificent ones. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 23, Verse 62).  
**RATHASTHA.** A Yakṣa who rotates in the month of Jyēṣṭha in the company of the Āditya called Mitra. (Bhāgavata, 12th Skandha).  
**RATHASTHĀ.** One of the seven tributaries of the Gaṅgā. According to the ancients, bathing in the river will wash off all sins. (Ādi Parva, Chapter 169, Verse 20).  
**RATHĀTIRATHASĀṆKHYĀNAPARVA.** A sub-Parva of Śānti Parva, Chapters 165-172.  
**RATHAVĀHANA.** Brother of the Virāṭa King. He fought against the Pāṇḍavas. (Droṇa Parva, Chapter 158, Verse 42).  
**RATHĀVARTĀ.** A holy place considered to be on the right side of Śākambharīdevī. He who visits this place will, due to the grace of Śiva, attain salvation. (Vana Parva, Chapter 84, Verse 23).  
**RATHAVĪTĪ.** A maharṣi. He lived in a hilly region very far away from the Himālayas. Once the maharṣi called Śyāvāśva invited Rathavīti to perform a homa at the yajña conducted by King Taranta, and when he came for the homa with his daughter the father of Śyāvāśva asked him to marry his daughter to Śyāvāśva. Rathavīti not only refused, but also dismissed Śyāvāśva from the yajñic platform. At last Rathavīti married

his daughter to Śyāvāśva at the request of King Taranta. (R̥gveda, Sāyaṇabhāṣya).

**RATHĪTARA.** A king of the solar dynasty. He was the son of Prṣatāśva. (Bhāgavata, 9th Skandha).

**RATI I.** Wife of Kāmadeva and some Purāṇas hold the view that Kāma was the son of Dharma whose father was Brahmā. But, the story of Kāma and Rati is described in the Kālikāpurāṇa as follows. Brahmā created ten prajāpatis. A beautiful lady called Sandhyā was his next creation. As soon as she was born, seeing her exquisite beauty Brahmā and the prajāpatis jumped to their feet. All of them thought in the same way. While the court of Brahmā was in such a perplexed confusion, an extremely handsome person emerged from his mind. Fish was the symbol on his flag, and he asked Brahmā thus: "Oh father, what should I do? Give me a suitable name and you should also decide upon a place and position and also a wife for me." Brahmā told him as follows:—"You be moving about everywhere in this world (full of men and women) engaged in the eternal function of creation with the five arrows of flower in your hands and thus multiply the population. Your arrows will go everywhere and no one, not even the Devas will dare to obstruct your arrows. Everyone will yield to your behests. Viṣṇu, Śiva and I also will yield before your arrows. You will enter the hearts of living beings in invisible form and giving them happiness engage yourself in eternal creation. The chief aim and object of your arrows of flower will be the hearts of living beings. You will be given a suitable name just now."

The prajāpatis, who understood the wish of Brahmā, after mutual consultation said: "You emerged churning our minds. Therefore, you will become famous under the name Manmatha (he who churns the mind). You will lay low Śiva's haughtiness and conceit. Oh! best among men, Dakṣa, chief among the prajāpatis, will give you a wife."

Happily pleased at the above words of Brahmā Kāma held up in his hands the bow and arrows of flowers and decided to shoot five arrows, i.e. harṣaṇam (pleasing or gladdening), Rocanaṁ (attracting or tempting), mohanaṁ (deluding or infatuating), śoṣaṇam (weakening) and māraṇam (killing). He decided to use the arrows first against Brahmā and then against the prajāpatis. Accordingly the arrows shot forth and Brahmā and all the prajāpatis overwhelmed by sexual passion stared at Sandhyādevī. Sandhyā also got excited and from her body sprouted up 49 parts; 64 kalās (arts) also were born from her. She used incessantly against the leaders of the world (Brahmā and others) who were downed by the arrows of sexual passion, arrows dear to Manmatha. The expressions of Brahmā made Sandhyā sick with love.

Śiva, who was just then travelling along the sky, seeing the boisterous exhibitions of passion by Brahmā and others alighted there. He ridiculed Brahmā for his display of passion towards his own daughter Sandhyā and spoke further like this: "This Kāma too is a fool. He tested his arrows here itself, he has no sense of propriety and discretion."

Brahmā was thoroughly ashamed at the words of Śiva. He perspired and swept with his hands the drops of sweat that oozed from his body. With great difficulty he controlled his passion and gave up Sandhyā. From