

it is because they are afraid of scandal. They will enjoy men without looking into their age or figure. The desire for men in women can be compared to that of Antaka (god of Death) for the lives of men. This is the secret of womanhood." (Chapter 38, Anuśāsana Parva).

PAÑCADEVIS. Durgā, Rādhā, Lakṣmī, Sarasvatī and Sāvitrī are the Pañcadevis. They are different forms of nature. (See under Devī and Prakṛti).

PAÑCADHANUS. A King of the race of Pūru. He was the son of Śrījaya and the father of Somadatta. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 278).

PAÑCAGAṆA. An ancient kingdom of Uttara Bhārata. During the time of the Pāṇḍavas this country was prospering and Arjuna once conquered the ruler of this country. (Śloka 12, Chapter 27, Sabhā Parva).

PAÑCAGAṆGĀ. A sacred place of Uttara Bhārata. The god of Death once sat at this place and practised penance. From then onwards the place was considered holy. (Śloka 23, Chapter 54, Droṇa Parva).

PAÑCĀGNI. Rohiṇī, a daughter and Soma, a son, were born to Niśā the third wife of Manu, an Agni. Besides these they got five sons in the form of Agni (fire) and these five are called Pañcāgnis. They are Vaiśvānara, Viśvapati, Sannihita, Kapila and Agraṇī.

PAÑCAJA I. (PAÑCAJANA). A mighty asura. This asura lived inside a conch. Śrī Kṛṣṇa killed this asura. Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Balabhadra were having their education in the āśrama of the sage Sāṇḍipani. On the eve of their completing their education an asura named Pañcaja carried away the son of the sage while the child was bathing in the Prabhāsatirtha and kept him inside a conch where the asura lived. The sage, greatly griefstricken asked his disciples to get him back his son as his Gurudakṣiṇā (fees for the preceptor). Accordingly Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma went to the banks of the river and prayed to Varuṇa. Varuṇa appeared before them and then they told him about the mishap. With the help of Varuṇa they killed the asura Pañcaja and got back the son of their guru. The conch in which the asura lived was taken by Kṛṣṇa. Because the conch belonged to Pañcaja the conch got the name Pāñcajanya. (10th Skandha, Bhāgavata).

PAÑCAJA II. Sagara of the solar race got a son named Asamañjasa of his wife Keśinī. He became famous as Pañcaja. He was the father of Amśumān and grandfather of Dilīpa. (Chapter 15, Harivaṁśa).

PAÑCAJANA. A Prajāpati. He gave his daughter Pañcajanī (Asiknī) in marriage to the great sage and law-giver Dakṣa. (6th Skandha, Bhāgavata).

PAÑCAJANAS. Brahmins, Kṣatriyas, Vaiśyas and Śūdras are the four castes. Niśādas form the fifth caste. All these five are collectively called Pañcajanas. (Sūktā 89, Anuvāka 14, Maṇḍala 1, Ṛgveda).

PAÑCAJANĪ. A beautiful daughter of Viśvarūpa. King Rṣabha of the lunar race married this girl and they got five sons named Sumati, Rāṣṭrabhṛt, Sudarśana, Āvaraṇa and Dhūmraketu. (5th Skandha, Bhāgavata).

PAÑCAJANYA I. The conch of Śrī Kṛṣṇa. (See under Pañcaja).

PAÑCAJANYA II. A forest near the mountain of Raivataka. (Dākṣiṇātya Pāṭha; Chapter 38, Sabhā Parva).

PAÑCAJANYA III. An agni (fire). It was so called because it was born of the parts of five sages. It was called Tapa also. (Chapter 220, Vana Parva).

PAÑCAKA. One of the two soldiers presented to Subrahmaṇya by Indra for the battle between the devas and asuras. The other was named Utkrośa. (Śloka 35, Chapter 45, Śalya Parva).

PAÑCAKARṆAVĀTSYĀYANA. A Vedic preceptor. Because Pañcakarṇa was born in the family of Vātsya he got the name Vātsyāyana.

In the language of Yogic treatises the seven life-winds in the human head are called the 'Saptasūryas' (seven suns). Pañcakarṇavātsyāyana had a clear knowledge of these Saptasūryas and has given a vivid description of them. (Taittirīya Āraṇyaka).

PAÑCAKARPAṬA. An ancient country of western Bhārata. Nakula, one of the Pāṇḍavas, conquered this country. (Chapter 32, Sabhā Parva).

PAÑCĀKṢARAMĀHĀTMYA. Namaśśivāya composed of five letters (Na—maḥ—śi—vā—ya) is called the mantra of Pañcākṣara. There is a story in Śiva Purāṇa about the powers one can acquire by uttering this mantra. (See under Kalāvati).

PAÑCĀLA I. An ancient village of Bhārata. (Chapter 9, Bhīṣma Parva).

PAÑCĀLA II. A sage. He worshipped God according to the doctrines laid down by Vāmadeva and by the blessing of God attained the Kramavibhāga in the Vedas. (Śloka 102, Chapter 342, Sānti Parva).

PAÑCĀLA III. An ancient country of Bhārata. Draupadī, wife of the Pāṇḍavas, was the daughter of Drupada, King of Pāñcāla. (See under Drupada).

PAÑCĀLĪ. Draupadī, wife of the Pāṇḍavas.

i). *Previous births.* Pāñcālī had many previous births. During all these births many gods blessed her saying that she would have five husbands when she was born as the daughter of Drupada. Stories about her previous births lying scattered in the Purāṇas are given below:—

1) *Māyāsītā.* When Rāma and Lakṣmaṇa were in exile in the forest with Sītā, Agni came to Rāma once and told him in private thus: "Oh Rāma, you have incarnated on earth to kill Rāvaṇa. The time for that is drawing nigh and ere long Rāvaṇa would carry away Sītā. It is not proper that Sītā, the incarnation of Lakṣmī, should be touched by Rāvaṇa. Therefore I shall keep Sītā safe with me and I am giving you a phantom Sītā to be with you in her stead." Śrī Rāma took the Māyāsītā from Agni without even Lakṣmaṇa knowing it and handed over the original Sītā to the custody of Agni.

While thus Śrī Rāma, Lakṣmaṇa and Māyāsītā were living together in their hermitage a golden deer was seen one day in the precincts of their āśrama. Sītā was enamoured of the beautiful deer and wanted it. So Rāma keeping Lakṣmaṇa to watch over Sītā went in search of the deer. Śrī Rāma tried his best to capture the deer alive. But all his efforts failed and by that time he had come far from the āśrama following the deer. So he discharged an arrow and killed it. While falling dead the deer raised a cry imitating that of Rāma's and called Lakṣmaṇa for help. The deer was none other than Mārīca, the uncle of Rāvaṇa. On hearing the call for help Lakṣmaṇa rushed to the spot from where the sound came and Sītā was left alone