

The king took Śunaśśepha with him and came to Puṣkara tirtha. There they happened to meet Viśvāmitra. Śunaśśepha complained to Viśvāmitra and lamented over his ill-fate. Viśvāmitra wished to save him and to send one of his own sons in his place with Ambarīṣa. But none of his sons was willing to oblige. Viśvāmitra cursed them and turned them into eaters of human flesh. Then he turned to Śunaśśepha and said :—
“When you stand ready to be sacrificed near the altar, offer your prayers to Agni. If you do so, you will attain siddhi.” (salvation or mokṣa). He also taught him two songs of praise to Agni.

While standing at the altar ready to be sacrificed Śunaśśepha recited the two songs of praise. Indra and the other gods appeared and after saving Śunaśśepha rewarded Ambarīṣa for his yāga. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bālakāṇḍa, 62nd Sarga).

- 6) *Rēika and the Vaiṣṇava bow.* Once Viśvakarmā made two mighty bows. One of them was taken by Śiva to burn the Tripuras. That bow is known as “Śaivacāpa”. The other bow was given to Viṣṇu. It is called “Vaiṣṇavacāpa”. The Devas wished to see a trial of strength between Śiva and Viṣṇu. They prompted Brahmā to bring about such a conflict. Brahmā succeeded in causing a quarrel between Śiva and Viṣṇu. A fight began between Śiva and Viṣṇu. Both the Śaivacāpa and Vaiṣṇavacāpa went into action. But Śiva was defeated. After that, Śiva gave his bow to Devarāta, king of Videha. By inheritance it came into the hands of king Janaka, the father of Sītā. It was this bow which was broken by Śrī Rāma at the time of Sītā’s Svayamvara.

After the battle with Śiva, Viṣṇu gave his bow to Rēika who, in turn gave it to Jamadagni. Jamadagni presented it to his son Paraśurāma. It was with this Vaiṣṇavacāpa that Paraśurāma confronted Śrī Rāma who was returning after Sītā’s Svayamvara. (Rāmāyaṇa, Bālakāṇḍa, 75th Sarga).

7) Other details.

(i) Rēika was given 1,000 white horses with black ears which could run fast, by Gādhi as dowry. Varuṇa presented these horses on the bank of the river Gaṅgā. The place in Gaṅgā where the horses rose up, came to be called “Aśvatīrtha”. Gādhi gave Satyavatī to Rēika at the place called ‘Kanyākubja’. (M.B. Araṇya Parva, Chapter 115).

(ii) Mahābhārata, Aśvamedhika Parva, Chapter 29, Verse 23 says that Rēika once tried to stop Paraśurāma from killing Kṣatriyas.

(iii) Once Dyutimān, King of Sālva, presented a tract of land to Rēika. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 137, Verse 28).

(iv) Rēika attained Vaikuṇṭha and his wife Satyavatī accompanied him in her earthly body. It is said that after it, Satyavatī transformed herself into a river under the name “Kauśiki” and began to flow in north India. (Vālmiki Rāmāyaṇa, Bālakāṇḍa, 34th Sarga).

RĀCIKA II. One of the twelve Ādityas. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 1, Verse 42).

RĀCIKA III. A King who was the grandson of emperor Bharata and son of Dyumanyu. (M.B. Ādi Parva, Chapter 94, Verse 24).

RDDHI. Varuṇa’s wife. (M.B. Udyoga Parva, Chapter 117, Verse 9).

RDDHIMĀN. A great serpent. In Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 160, Verse 15, there is a reference to the killing of this serpent by Garuḍa.

REṆU I. A teacher-priest, who was the son of hermit Viśvāmitra and the author of a Sūkta in Ṛgveda. (Aitareya-Brāhmaṇa 7. 17. 7; Ṛgveda 9. 70).

REṆU II. King of the dynasty of Ikṣvāku. Reṇukā the wife of the hermit Jamadagni, and the mother of Paraśurāma was the daughter of this King. Reṇu had other names such as Prasena-jit, Prasena and Suveṇu. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 116; Verse 2).

REṆUKĀ I. The wife of the hermit Jamadagni. (For further details see under the word Jamadagni).

REṆUKĀ II. A holy place frequented by Sages. It is mentioned in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 82. Stanza 82 that those who bathe in this holy bath would become as pure as Candra (Moon). It is stated in Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 82, that this holy place lies within the boundary of Kurukṣetra.

REṆUKA. A powerful Nāga (serpent). This serpent who was a dweller of Pātāla, (nether world) once went to the Diggajas (Eight elephants supporting the globe), in accordance with the instruction of the gods, and asked them questions pertaining to duty and righteousness. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 132, Stanza 2)

REPHA. A hermit of the period of Ṛgveda. Once the asuras threw this hermit into water. This was the punishment for the sins committed by him in his previous life. (Ṛgveda, Maṇḍala 1, Anuvāka 17, Sūkta 116).

REVANTA. A son of the sun.

1) *Birth.* The sun married the daughter of Viśvakarmā named Samjñā. She gave birth to three children named Manu, Yama and Yamī. Once, being unable to bear the radiance of her husband, Samjñā went to the forest to do penance. During this period Chāyā the maid of Samjñā attended on the sun. Three children, Śanaīscara, Manu and Tapatī were born to the Sun of Chāyā. Once Chāyā cursed Yama. Then only did the Sun remember about Samjñā. At that time Samjñā had been doing penance in the forest in the form of a mare. The Sun took the form of a horse and lived with her in the forest. From this union Aśvinikumāras and also the last son Revanta were born. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Amṣa 3, Chapter 2).

2) *Lakṣmī astounded at the sight of Revanta.* For the story of how Lakṣmī was astounded at the sight of Revanta’s handsome figure and how Mahāviṣṇu cursed Lakṣmī consequently, see under Ekavīra.

REVATA. The father of Revatī, the wife of Balabhadra-rāma. Revata was the son of Ānartta and the grandson of king Śaryāti. It is mentioned in Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 7, that Revata was the first king who erected his capital in the Island Kuśasthali and began to rule over it.

REVATĪ I. Wife of Balabhadrarāma. Revata the son of Ānartta and the grandson of King Śaryāti was ruling over the island Kuśasthali. Hundred sons beginning with Kukudmī, were born to him. As the youngest of all a daughter named Revatī was born. At the instruction of Brahmā the beautiful Revatī was given in marriage to Balabhadrarāma. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 10; Devī Bhāgavata, Skandha 7).

REVATĪ II. In Mahābhārata, Vana Parva, Chapter 230, Stanza 29, the name ‘Revatī’ is used as a synonym of Aditi Devī.