

him to do *tapas* in the Himālayas in honour of Śiva. Engaged in *tapas* by standing in water in the winter and on the fire in summer, by means of Padmāsana; Śiva in hunter's guise visited him and asked him to quit his place. Suspecting him to be god, Rāma, appealed to him when Śiva showed his true form. Instructed by Śiva, he went round the earth on a pilgrimage tour. Helped the Devas in routing the Asuras; continued his *tapas* by worshipping Śiva as mṛga-vyādha. Pleased, the Lord instructed him in the *astra-grāma* in its four aspects; went to Brahmā for advice before he started on his crusade against the Kṣatriyas. Advised to meet Śiva and to get initiated into *Kṛṣṇamantra kavacam*; Śiva instructed him with *Trailokya vijayam mantram*. On his way back he stayed at Puṣkara and heard a male deer narrating the story of Paraśurāma and Akṛtavraṇa to the female deer, adding that his was not the *uttama bhakti* but the *madhyama*. He took the hint from that conversation that he would achieve his end by Agastya's grace. Rāma repaired to the hermitage of Agastya, followed by the deer.⁵ Mūlaka afraid of;⁶ a Brāhmaṇa;⁷ a slayer of the Kṣatriyas; versed in Dhanurveda;⁸ equal in prowess to Indra resplendent and a mixture of Brahma and Kṣatra;⁹ consort Dharanī.¹⁰

¹ Bhā. IX. 15. 13 to the end. Br. III. 1. 98; 66. 63; 69. 48; M. 43. 40; 285. 7. ² Bhā. IX. 16. 1-23; M. 273. 66. ³ Bhā. VIII. 13. 15; IX. 16. 25-7. ⁴ Ib. X. 74. 9; 84. 4. ⁵ Br. III. Chh. 21-35. ⁶ Ib. III. 63. 179; 74. 262. ⁷ Vā. 94. 46; 99. 449. ⁸ Ib. 91. 91. ⁹ Ib. 65. 94. ¹⁰ Vi. I. 9. 143.

Rāma (iv)—a son of Śivadatta.

Br. III. 35. 12.

Rāma (v)—a sage of the Sāvarnī epoch. (eighth epoch Vi. P.).

M. 9. 32; Vi. III. 2. 17.