

became a Rākṣasa through Vasiṣṭha's curse. Once as he was hunting, he killed a demon. The latter's brother wanted to wreak vengeance on the king and in the guise of a cook, served human flesh to Vasiṣṭha. The sage knew this and cursed him to be a demon for 12 years. The king wanted to curse the sage in return but was stopped by his wife. The consecrated waters fell on his feet and blackened them. Wandering in the forest, he saw a Brahman couple engaged in amorous sports. As a demon he seized the Brahman and ate his flesh despite the lady's protest. She cursed the demon to meet with death in the sexual act and joined her husband on his funeral pyre: after 12 years he returned and longed for union with his queen. She refused remembering the curse of the Brahmana lady. So he appointed Vasiṣṭha to beget a son on his queen. As the child was seven years in pregnancy, Vasiṣṭha hit her stomach with a stone and the child was born. This was Aśmaka.

Bhā. IX. 9. 18-39; Vā. 1. 175; 88. 176.

*Saudhika*—a Bhārgava gotrakāra.

M. 195. 22.

*Saunaka*—a Bhārgava gotra.

Vā. 65. 96.

*Sauparnī*—a mind-born mother.

M. 179. 10.

*Sauparṇeyas*—divine birds; sisters of Aruṇa and Garuḍa.

Vā. 69. 67.

*Saupuri*—belonging to the Ārṣeya Pravara, Angiras.

M. 196. 7.