

Nakshatra Devatas

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Text 363385: 20-Mar-94 jagadish@aol.com

Subject: Re: Clarification

Here is the list I was referring to. We know some of the devatas, but who are the rest? For instance who is Nirrti or Apa? Refresh my memory on why Abhijit is not included anymore.

Asvini Asvini	Kumaras
Bharani	Yama
Krttika	Agni
Rohini	Prajapati/Brahma
Mrga	Soma/Candra
Ardra	Rudra/Siva
Punarvasu	Aditi
Pushya	Brhaspati
Aslesha	Sarpa
Magha	Pitris
Purva-phalguni	Bhaga
Uttara-phalguni	Aryaman
Hasta	Savitri/Ravi
Citra	Tvastri
Svati	Vayu
Visakha	Indragni
Anuradha	Mitra
Jyestha	Indra
Mula	Nirrti
Purva-asadha	Apa
Uttara-asadha	Visvadevas
Abhijit	Brahma
Dhanishta	Vasus
Satabhisa	Varuna
Purva-bhadra	Aja Ekapad
Uttara-bhadra	Ahirbudhnya
Revati	Pusan

On another note, it appears that some of your students here are a little rough

around the edges. Or maybe it's because they don't consider that this is a class. Anyway I'm learning a lot and I've studied astrology for quite a while. I only wish I had had you as a teacher years ago. It would have saved me a lot of grief.

Jagadisananda dasa (Rocking and rolling in sunny LA, earthquake loka)

Text 363642: 21-Mar-94 Shyamasundara.ACBS@com-link.org
Subject: RE: clarification.

OK. If you notice Abhijit is on the list. Maitreya pointed out to me that I had goofed and forgotten to include Sravana as well. These deities are all Vedic deities mentioned in the Vedas and Yajnas to them were performed when the Moon was in their asterism.

I couldn't find anything right away on Apa (though depending on the real spelling it may be a form of Varuna, apa-water, or it could, like Agni, be a direct water god—all speculation on my part).

Perhaps B.V. Madhava Swami, erudite Sanskritist and Vaidika pandita could enlighten us.

For Nirrti I found the following in Puranic Encyclopedia pg 540:

- (i) He is one of the Astadikpalas (guards of the 8 directions). He is in charge of the southwest direction.
- (ii) He is one of the Ekadasarudras [forms of Siva] (Adi Parva, 66.2)
- (iii) He is the grandson of Brahma and the son of Sthanu. (Ibid)
- (v) In temples his idols are installed with sword in hand and seated on an ass. (Agni Purana ch 51)

Aja Ekapada–Ajaikapat is also one of the Rudras (PE pg 19) along with Ahirbudhnya.

Bhaga: A Vedic god–lord of wealth, prowess and happiness. One of the six (12?) Adityas along with Mitra, Aryama, Varuna,... Rgveda 2.27 (PE pg 112)

Many of them are Adityas so I'll give the list of Adityas from PE 57 (under Aryama).

The Adityas are: Dhaataa, Aryamaa, Mitra, Shakra [Indra], Varuna, Amsha, Bhaga, Vivasvaan, Puusaa [Pusan], Savitaa, Tvastaa, and Visnu.

Does that answer your question?

Text 366006: 28-Mar-94 jagadish@aol.com
Subject: Nakshatras

Here are some quotes from Srila Prabhupada's books regarding the different demigods who rule the nakshatras.

"Now please hear me as I describe the descendants of Aditi in chronological order. In this dynasty the Supreme Personality of Godhead Narayana descended by His plenary expansion. The names of the sons of Aditi are as follows: Vivasvan, Aryama, Pusa, Tvasta, Savita, Bhaga, Dhata, Vidhata, Varuna, Mitra, Satru and Urukrama."

Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 6: Chapter Six, Text 40

"From Narayana, Brahma is born, and from Narayana the patriarchs are also born. From Narayana, Indra is born, from Narayana the eight Vasus are born, from Narayana the eleven Rudras are born, from Narayana the twelve Adityas are born.' This Narayana is an expansion of Krsna."

Bhagavad-gita As It Is: Chapter Ten, Text 8

"Kasyapa: One of the prajapatis, the son of Marici and one of the sons-in-law of Prajapati Daksa. He is the father of the gigantic bird Garuda, who was given elephants and tortoises as eatables. He married thirteen daughters of Prajapati Daksa, and their names are Aditi, Diti, Danu, Kastha, Arista, Surasa, Ila, Muni, Krodhavasa, Tamra, Surabhi, Sarama and Timi. He begot many children, both demigods and demons, by those wives. From his first wife, Aditi, all the twelve Adityas were born; one of them is Vamana, the incarnation of Godhead."

Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 1: Chapter Twelve, Text 21

"When Yamaraja thus incarnated himself as Vidura, his post was officiated by Aryama, one of the many sons of Kasyapa and Aditi. The Adityas are sons of Aditi, and there are twelve Adityas. Aryama is one of the twelve Adityas, and therefore it was quite possible for him to take charge of the office of Yamaraja during his one hundred years' absence in the form of Vidura. The conclusion is that Vidura was never a sudra, but was greater than the purest type of brahmana."

Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 1: Chapter Thirteen, Text 16

"In this manvantara, O King, the Adityas, the Vasus, the Rudras, the Visvedevas, the Maruts, the two Asvini-kumara brothers and the Rbhus are the demigods. Their head king [Indra] is Purandara."

Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 8: Chapter Thirteen, Text 5

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We can see from the last quote that the various groups of demigods in this universe practically cover all the rulers of the various nakshatras. The following list is my interpolation and I'll give an explanation at the end of the list of what I did.

VISNU, BRAHMA AND SIVA

Visnu: Sravana

Brahma: Rohini and Abhijit

Siva : Ardra

OTHER DEMIGODS

Candra: Mrgasira

Yamaraja: Bharani and Magha

Brhaspati: Pushya

Vayu: Svati

Agni: Krttika

Sarpa: Aslesha

ADITYAS

Aditi: Punarvasu

Vivasvana: Hasta

Indra: Jyestha

Varuna: Satabhisa

Bhaga: Purva Phalguni

Aryaman: Uttara Phalguni

Tvasta: Citra

Mitra: Anuradha

Pusan: Revati

RUDRAS

Purva-bhadrapada: Ajaikapat

Uttara-bhadrapada: Ahirbudhnya

Mula: Nirrti

VISVADEVAS

Uttarasadha: Visvadevas

Purvasadha: Apa

ASVINI-KUMARA BROTHERS

Asvini: Asvini Kumaras

VASUS

Dhanishta: Vasus

?

Vishaka: Indragni

1. Sravana, which was missing in Shyamasundara's list, I guessed was ruled by Visnu. Visnu or Urukrama was the youngest son of Aditi. He's more commonly known as Vamanadeva. Vamana appeared on the Sravana-dvadasi. This is confirmed in the SB 8.18, summary.

2. I placed Magha under Yamaraja, lord of death, as the Pitris refer to Pitriloka which is Yamaraja's abode.

3. Vayu, of course, is lord of the air, Sarpa lord of the serpents, Candra lord of the Moon, Agni lord of fire, and Brhaspati is Guru of the demigods.

4. I put Vivasvana as lord of Hasta because Ravi I assumed was a name of the Sun and its lord is Vivasvana, one of the Adityas.

5. I just guessed that Apa is a Visvadeva since Uttarasadha is ruled by the Visvadevas.

5. Who is Indragni?

Here is an interesting history of the Moon and the nakshatras.

"As described in this chapter, Prajapati Daksa begot sixty daughters in the womb of his wife Asikni. These daughters were given in charity to various persons to increase the population. Since these offspring of Daksa were women, Narada Muni did not try to lead them toward the renounced order of life. Thus the daughters were saved from Narada Muni. Ten of the daughters were given in marriage to Dharmaraja, thirteen to Kasyapa Muni, and twenty-seven to the moon-god, Candra."

Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 6: Chapter Six :SUMMARY

"O Maharaja Pariksit, best of the Bharatas, the constellations named [headed by] Krttika were all wives of the moon-god. However, because Prajapati Daksa had cursed him to suffer from a disease causing gradual destruction, the moon-god could not beget children in any of his wives."

Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 6: Chapter Six, Text 23

(Note: I changed this verse slightly. In the word meanings krttika-adini is translated as "headed by Krttika", so I replace the word 'named' with the words 'headed by'. Try reading it both ways and you'll see why I did this.)

"Thereafter the King of the moon pacified Prajapati Daksa with courteous words

and thus regained the portions of light he had lost during his disease. Nevertheless he could not beget children. The moon loses his shining power during the dark fortnight, and in the bright fortnight it is manifest again." Srimad-Bhagavatam Canto 6: Chapter Six, Text 24-26

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I tried to find the history of Prajapati Daksa's curse of the moon-god, but I couldn't find it. I vaguely remember that at one time the moon was always full. Does anyone know this story? It's amazing when you read the Bhagavatam how the genealogy is all interrelated. You really see how the universe is just one large family. One story relates to another and another and even the sciences like astrology become very personal.

Text 366115: 01-Apr-94 Shyamasundara (Dasa) ACBSP (San Diego)
Subject: Nakshatras

Sravana is indeed ruled by Visnu.

Magha is not under Yamaraja but Pitris. The Puranic Encyclopedia gives information on the subject: There are 7 classes of Pitris

Somasadasya: created by Virat Purush, they are the Pitris of the Saadhyadevas.

Agnisvatta: they are the Pitris of the devas.

Barhisadas: Pitris created by Atri muni. They are Pitris of Daityas, Danavas... etc.

Somapa: They are the sons of Bhrgu are the Pitris of Brahmans.

...

"To the seven sages like Marici were born Pitris and to the Pitris were born the devas and asuras and to the devas and asuras were born everything else in this universe, animate and inanimate." (Manu-samhita ch.3)

Thus Pitris and Yamaraja are different.

According to the list I have Apa is actually water. Just as Agni is fire. Apa isn't a Visvadevata.

Indragni is Indra-Agni, two devas like Mitra-Varuna.