

**INDIAN MYTHOLOGY & HISTORY**

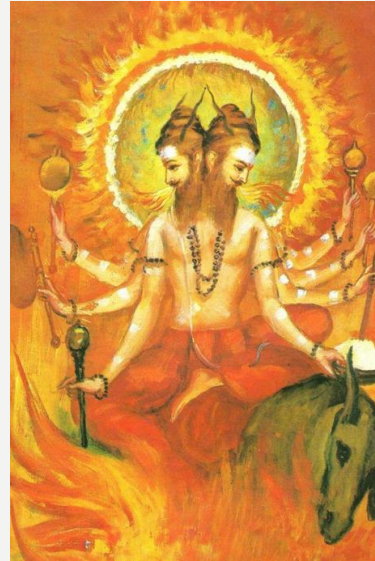
**STORIES OF  
DEVATAS**

# DEVATAS

Nature Worshipers with elaborate chanting of hymns



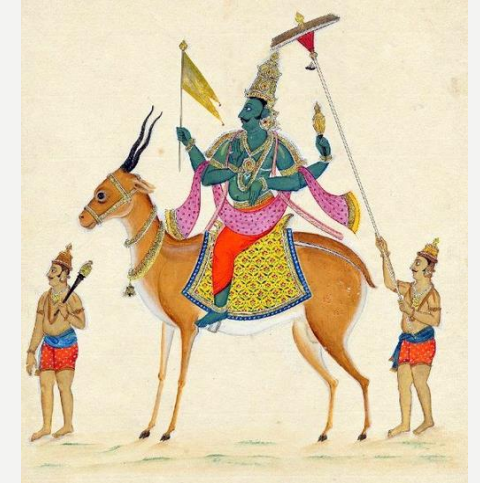
Indra – King of all Devas –  
thunderstorms



Surya – Sun



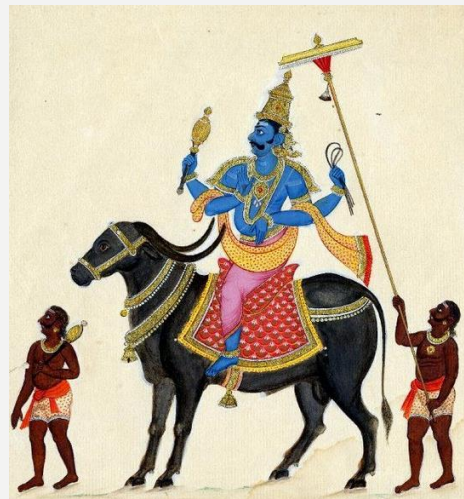
Agni – Fire



Vayu - Air



Varuna - Water



Yama - Death



Soma- Drink

# WHAT ARE DEVTAS

- The five main Vedic Devatas are Agni, Vayu, Indra, Surya and Soma. As light forms in nature these are fire, wind, lightning, sun and moon. Yet these are further explained as analogues for the formless Brahman.
  - Brahman or the supreme Godhead in the Upanishads is compared to a great fire, of which the worlds and creatures are but the sparks.
  - Brahman is similarly compared to Wind or Vayu, a formless force that when it blows creates and moves everything.
  - Brahman is also like the Sun, the supreme source of light, life and consciousness.
  - Brahman is like the Moon, granting peace, delight and beauty to all things.

# INDRA

- The god of Lightning – he is the king of all devtas.
- Was born for releasing the water captured by Vrittra, a demon.
- Another Story
  - Disrespected Brihaspati
  - Made Vishwarupa the new guru and killed him after winning the world as he did yagya for asuras too.
  - Twashta father of Vishwarupa created Vrittra from Yagya, who defeats Indra
  - Vishnu asks Indra to get Dadhichi's bones - Vajjra
  - Vrittra devoured Indra and Airawat but Indra used Vajjra to defeat Vrittra

# INDRA STORIES

- Nahusha
  - Indra relinquishes
  - Devatas approach Nahusha – a virtuous king
  - Soon Nahusha became arrogant
  - Wants to marry Shachi – wife of Indra
  - Palanquin required – 8 sages carry him and he loses cool
  - Agastya, the short man, gives him a curse to become snake (sarpa)
- Indra and ants
  - Vishwakarma harassed
  - A small black boy tells them about multiple Indras and their fate as ants
  - Hermit shows up with a solitary hair

# FURTHER READING

- <https://www.vedanet.com/the-devatas-gods-and-goddesses-as-forms-of-brahman/>
- <https://www.indianmirror.com/history/mythological-stories/indra-and-vritra.html>
- <http://hindumythologyforgennext.blogspot.com/search/label/Stories%20of%20Indra>