

Who is who

The thirty-two gods, demons and mortals who actually appear in this volume, each with the chapters they appear in and how often. Every reference was produced by searching the text. Note that there are two Savitris. Valice Press's writing.

The gods, demons and mortals who actually appear in these five chapters. The chapter numbers and the counts were produced by searching the text, so nothing here points at a chapter that does not contain the name.

Figures who belong only to the epics — Arjuna, Draupadi, Rama, Sita, Krishna — are not smuggled in to make the list look fuller. They are in the volumes those chapters go to.

Where Mackenzie's spelling is likely to be met elsewhere in a different form, the modern transliteration follows in brackets.

Adityas (*Adityas*)

Chapters II, III · 8 mentions

A group of deities among whom Varuna and Mitra are counted, and to whom the more abstract solar figures are referred.

Agni (*Agni*)

Chapters I, II, III, IV, VI · 58 mentions

Fire, and the fire god: Indra's twin brother in some hymns and, Mackenzie says, the recipient of over two hundred hymns.

Apsaras (*Apsaras*)

Chapters III, IV · 8 mentions

The celestial dancing girls — nymphs who dance and sing in the assembly houses of the gods, and who take mortal lovers and leave them.

Asuras (*Asuras*)

Chapters IV, VI · 27 mentions

Demons, in India.

Bhima (*Bhima*)

Chapters IV, VI · 19 mentions

One of the five Pandava brothers of the Mahabharata, the human son of the wind god Vayu, and a mighty slayer of man-eating demons — Mackenzie lines him up with Siegfried, Dietrich of Bern, Beowulf and Finn mac Cumhaill in a single sentence.

Brahma (*Brahman, Brahmā; Brahma*)

Chapters I, II, III, VI · 24 mentions

The world soul, and in the Upanishadic doctrine Mackenzie quotes the only reality: the whole universe trembles within the life, Brahmā, and emanating from it the universe moves on.

Dyaus (*Dyaus Pitar; Dyaus*)

Chapters I, II · 7 mentions

The sky father — the oldest layer of the pantheon and already fading in the hymns that survive.

Dyumatsena (*Dyumatsena*)

Chapters III · 13 mentions

Satyavan's father: a king who lost his sight and then his kingdom and lives in the forest.

Gandharvas (*Gandharvas*)

Chapters III, IV, VI · 13 mentions

Celestial musicians, and the male counterpart of the apsaras.

Hanuman (*Hanuman*)

Chapters VI · 11 mentions

The ape god.

Indra (*the Thunderer; Indra*)

Chapters I, II, III, IV, VI · 86 mentions

King of the gods, and the god of this volume.

Manu (*Manu*)

Chapters I, II, III, VI · 11 mentions

The first man in his other aspect — not the first to die, as Yama is, but the ancestor from whom a people descends and after whom the ages of the world are named.

Maruts (*Maruts*)

Chapters I, II, III · 12 mentions

The storm gods — young, loud, and Indra's companions rather than his servants.

Mitra (*Mithra in Iran; Mitra*)

Chapters II, III, IV · 24 mentions

An ancient deity closely linked with Varuna, and in places identified with Agni.

Narayana (*Narayana*)

Chapters VI · 3 mentions

The creator and destroyer of chapter VI: the being in whom the universe is periodically gathered up at the end of an age and from whom it issues again.

Prithivi (*Prithivi*)

Chapters I, II · 4 mentions

Mother Earth, and the consort of Dyaus the sky father: the two are often addressed together as a pair, heaven and earth.

Rakshasas (*Rākṣasas; Rakshasas*)

Chapters II, IV, VI · 14 mentions

Man-eating demons with red eyes, red hair and beards, and mouths like caves, who feast on human beings and cattle.

Ratri (*Ratri*)

Chapters II · 2 mentions

Night, and Ushas's sister.

Ribhus (*Ribhus*)

Chapters I · 9 mentions

The artisans of the gods, who dwell in the region of mid-air and assist Indra in shaping the universe.

Rudra (*the Howler; Rudra*)

Chapters I, II · 6 mentions

A wind and storm god, the Howler and the Ruddy One, who rides a wild boar and fathers the Maruts.

Satyavan (*Satyavan*)

Chapters III · 35 mentions

Savitri's husband, the son of the blind exiled king Dyumatsena, and the man fated to die within the year..

Savitri (the god) (*the Stimulator*)

Chapters I, II · 4 mentions

A solar deity of pre-Vedic origin, yellow-haired, called the Stimulator; the setting sun, who merges with Surya.

Savitri (the princess)

Chapters III · 53 mentions

A princess of the country of Madra, who chooses as husband a man fated to die within the year, follows Yama when he comes for his soul, and wins him back by argument.

Soma (*Soma*)

Chapters I, II, III, IV, VI · 29 mentions

A plant, the drink pressed from it, the god of both, and eventually the moon.

Surya (*Surya*)

Chapters I, II, IV · 7 mentions

The sun god, and — like the Egyptian Ra, Mackenzie says — a god with three forms.

Twashtri (*Tvashtri, Tvaṣṭṛ; Twashtri*)

Chapters I, II, III · 14 mentions

The divine artisan, who fashioned the thunderstone Indra kills Vritra with, and the father-in-law of Vivasvat the rising sun.

Ushas (*Ushas*)

Chapters II · 3 mentions

The goddess of dawn, and the sister of Ratri, night.

Varuna (*Varuna*)

Chapters II, III, IV · 36 mentions

The most morally serious god here, and the one who loses.

Vayu (*Vata; Vayu*)

Chapters II, VI · 8 mentions

The wind god, also called Vata.

Vritra (*the Drought Demon; Vritra*)

Chapters I, IV · 18 mentions

The dragon, and the drought demon: he holds the cloud-cattle penned in his mountain fortress, and he roars when Indra draws near, whereat heaven shakes and the gods retreat.

Yama (*Yama*)

Chapters II, III, VI · 55 mentions

The first man, and therefore the king of the dead: because he died first he found the road, which became the path of the fathers, and he rules where it leads.

Yami (*Yami*)

Chapters III · 1 mentions

Yama's twin sister, and the other half of the first human pair.