

PULAHA. One of the Prajāpatis. The references about him in the Purāṇas are the following :

- (1) Pulaha was one of the spiritual sons of Brahmā. (Śloka 12, Chapter 204, Vana Parva).
- (2) Kṣamā, wife of Pulaha, delivered three sons named Kardama, Urvarivān and Sahiṣṇu. (Chapter 10, Amṣa 1, Viṣṇu Purāṇa).
- (3) Pulaha got of his wife Kṣamā another son named Karmaśreṣṭha. (Chapter 20, Agni Purāṇa).
- (4) Pulaha is included in the group of six powerful sages. (Śloka 4, Chapter 66, Ādi Parva).
- (5) From Pulaha were born the butterflies, lions, tigers, lambs, wolves and Kimpuruṣas. (Śloka 3, Chapter 66, Ādi Parva).
- (6) Pulaha took part in the Janmotsava of Arjuna. (Śloka 52, Chapter 122, Ādi Parva).
- (7) Pulaha was also among the sages who dissuaded Parāśara from conducting a yāga to kill all the rākṣasas. (Śloka 9, Chapter 180, Ādi Parva).
- (8) Pulaha was a member of the court of Indra. (Śloka 17, Chapter 7, Sabhā Parva).
- (9) Pulaha was a worshipper of Brahmā. (Śloka 18, Chapter 11, Sabhā Parva).
- (10) Pulaha did penance at a place on the shores of Alakanandā, a tributary of river Gaṅgā. (Śloka 6, Chapter 142, Vana Parva).
- (11) He took part in the Janmotsava of Subrahmaṇya. (Śloka 9, Chapter 45, Śalya Parva).
- (12) Pulaha is included in the twenty one Prajāpatis. (Śloka 35, Chapter 334, Śānti Parva).
- (13) Pulaha is one among the group of Saptarṣis called Citraśikhaṇḍins. (Śloka 29, Chapter 335, Śānti Parva).
- (14) Pulaha is also one of the Aṣṭaprakṛtis. (Chapter 340, Śānti Parva).

PULAKA. A daitya who was transformed into an animal. There is a story in the Skanda Purāṇa about him thus — Pulaka performed penance and got from Śiva a boon that he should possess astonishing smell in his body. The demon used to entice even celestial ladies by means of his smell. He thus became a menace to the three worlds. Devas complained to Śiva. Śiva got angry and commanded him to abandon his demoniac form and become an animal. Pulaka agreed to do so but requested Śiva to grant him the smell even in his state of an animal. Śiva granted that.

PULASTYA. One of the Prajāpatis.

- 1) *Birth and marriage.* Pulastya is one of the six spiritual sons of Brahmā. Pulastya was born from the Karṇa—ear—of Brahmā. (Chapter 65, Ādi Parva and Bhāgavata). Pulastya had a son named Dattoli (Dambholi) of his wife Prīti. This Dattoli in his previous birth was the Agastya of Svāyambhuva Manvantara. (Chapter 10, Amṣa 1, Viṣṇu Purāṇa). Pulastya had a son named Viśravas of his wife Havirbhū. (4th Skandha, Bhāgavata). Mahābhārata states that Pulastya had two wives named Sandhyā and Praticī. Havirbhū mother of Viśravas had another name, Mānini. All these statements taken together indicate that Pulastya had four wives named Prīti, Havirbhū, Sandhyā and Praticī.
- 2) *Genealogy.* The race formed by Pulastya is given below : Pulastya got a son named Viśravas of his wife

Havirbhū alias Mānini. Viśravas had two wives named Kaikasī and Devavarninī alias Ilabilā. Kaikasī had three sons, Rāvaṇa, Kumbhakarṇa, and Vibhīṣaṇa and a daughter named Śūrpaṇakhā. Rāvaṇa got of his wife Mandodarī three sons, Meghanāda, Atikāya and Akṣakumāra. Kumbhakarṇa got of his wife Vajramālā two sons named Kumbha and Nikumbha. Vibhīṣaṇa got of his wife Saramā seven sons. Viśravas got of his wife Ilabilā a son named Vaiśravaṇa alias Kubera.

3) *Birth of Viśravas.* In olden times in Tretāyuga Pulastya Mahārṣi was doing penance on Mt. Meru. On a nearby hillock the sage Tṛṇabindu was also doing penance. Celestial maidens, Nāga maidens and their lovers came to the āśrama and by their erotic sports and dances vitiated the precincts of the āśrama. Pulastya got angry and cursed all the maidens to become pregnant if they entered the āśrama area. Without knowing this curse Mānini, daughter of Tṛṇabindu came to that spot and got pregnant of Pulastya. Pulastya then married her and the celebrated Mahārṣi Viśravas was born to her.

4) *How he saved Rāvaṇa.* Once Rāvaṇa who started on a victory campaign met Kārtavīryārjuna on the shores of Narmadā. Kārtavīryārjuna chained Rāvaṇa in the former's prison. Pulastya was grieved much to hear about the plight of his grandson and going to Kārtavīryārjuna and explaining things got the release of Rāvaṇa. (Chapter 46, Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa).

5) *Other details.*

- (i) Pulastya once blessed Parāśara for the writing of Purāṇas. (Chapter 1, Amṣa 1, Viṣṇu Purāṇa).
- (ii) Rākṣasas, Vānaras (monkeys), Kinnaras, Gandharvas and Yakṣas were born from the intelligent Pulastya. (Śloka 7, Chapter 66, Ādi Parva).
- (iii) He was present for the Janmotsava of Arjuna. (Śloka 52, Chapter 122, Ādi Parva).
- (iv) Parāśara once started to perform a Yāga to destroy all the rākṣasas. Pulastya along with other sages went and persuaded him to withdraw from his venture. (Chapter 180, Ādi Parva).
- (v) Pulastya was a member of the court of Indra. (Śloka 17, Chapter 7, Sabhā Parva).
- (vi) Pulastya sits in the court of Brahmā and worships him. (Śloka 19, Chapter 11, Ādi Parva).
- (vii) Once Pulastya taught Bhīṣma the importance and greatness of all the holy places of Bhārata. From then onwards Pulastya is called the Guru of Bhīṣma also. (Chapter 82, Vana Parva).
- (viii) Pulastya got of his wife Gau a son named Kubera. (Śloka 12, Chapter 274, Vana Parva).
- (ix) Viśravas was born of half of the body of Pulastya. (Chapter 274, Śloka 13, Ādi Parva).
- (x) Pulastya was present for the birth day celebrations of Subrahmaṇya. (Śloka 9, Chapter 45, Śalya Parva).
- (xi) Pulastya also visited Bhīṣma lying on his bed of arrows. (Śloka 10, Chapter 47, Śānti Parva).
- (xii) Pulastya was one among the twentyone Prajāpatis. (See under Prajāpati).
- (xiii) Pulastya is included in the group of Saptarṣis called Citraśikhaṇḍins. (Śloka 29, Chapter 335, Śānti Parva).
- (xiv) Pulastya is one of the Aṣṭaprakṛtis. (Chapter 340, Śānti Parva).
- (xv) As synonyms of Pulastya the following terms are used: Brahmaṛṣi, Viprayogī. (Mahābhārata).