

pardon and immediately went through his work giving suggestions for improvement.

PUNYA I Son of the sage Dirghatamas. The story of Puṇya as found in Jñānavāsiṣṭha is the following:— There is a mountain called Mahendra in Jambūdvīpa. Dirghatamas who was doing penance there had two sons named Puṇya and Pāvana. Puṇyakumāra grew up into a boy abounding in virtues. Pāvana was not so broad-minded. When after some time Dirghatamas, their father died, Puṇyakumāra controlling his sorrow did all the funeral rites; but Pāvana unable to control his sorrow left the place and wandered in the forests weeping bitterly. After some days Puṇyakumāra went in search of his brother and on finding him consoled him and told him that there was nothing to be worried about their father's death. On hearing the learned and moral teachings of Puṇya, Pāvana also got enlightened and after living in that forest for a number of years both of them abandoned their lives.

PUNYA II The name of the āsrama of the sage Vibhāṇḍaka. (Śloka 23, Chapter 110, Vana Parva).

PUNYAJANA. A rākṣasa. Raivata, king of Kuśasthalī, born of the race of Śaryāti, went to see Brahmā. Taking advantage of his absence from the place Puṇyajana took control over Kuśasthalī. Afraid of the demon all the hundred brothers of Raivata left the country. After some time the Śaryāti dynasty merged with that of Hehaya. (Chapter 2, Arīṣa 4, Viṣṇu Purāṇa).

PUNYAJANĪ. Wife of Maṇibhadra, one of the Śivapārśadas. Her father's name was Kratustha. Maṇibhadra got thirteen sons of Puṇyajani. (Chapters 3 and 7, Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa).

PUNYAKṚT. A Viśvadeva. (Śloka 30, Chapter 91, Anuśāsana Parva).

PUNYANĀMĀ. A soldier of Subrahmaṇya. (Chapter 45, Śalya Parva).

PUNYANIDHI. A king of the lunar race. The King was a great devotee of Viṣṇu and he went to Rāmeśvara to do worship of Viṣṇu there. Pleased with the pure devotion of the king Mahāviṣṇu started living at Rāmeśvara under the name of Setumādhava. (Chapter 3, Skanda Purāṇa).

PUNYAŚILA. A brahmin who was residing on the banks of the river Godāvarī. Once Puṇyaśila engaged a brahmin widower for officiating in a Śrāddha ceremony. As a result of that sin Puṇyaśila's face became that of a donkey. To be freed from the sin he went and bathed in the Svāmītīrtha and Ākāśagaṅgātīrtha of Venkaṭācala. His sin was washed away and his face regained its original form. (Chapter 2, Skanda Purāṇa)

PUNYAŚRAVAS. A sage. This maharṣi who was a great devotee of Viṣṇu was born to the brother of Nanda gopa, during the incarnation of Viṣṇu as Kṛṣṇa, as a daughter named Lavaṅgā. (Pātāla Khaṇḍa, Padma, Purāṇa Chapter 72).

PUNYATOYĀ. A river seen by the sage Mārkaṇḍeya when he moved about inside the belly of Bālamukunda. (See under Mārkaṇḍeya).

PURA. A demon.

PURAMĀLINĪ. A river of Purāṇic fame. (Śloka 21, Chapter 9, Bhīṣma Parva).

PURANDARA I. Indra.

PURANDARA II. Tapa, son of the agni called Pāñcajanya. Indra once became the son of this Purandara. (Śloka 3, Chapter 221, Vana Parva).

PURANDARA III. The name of Indra in Vaivasvata Manvantara. (See under Manvantara). In Matsya Purāṇa Purandara has been considered to be one among the eighteen Vāstuśāstrakāras (adepts in house building). The other seventeen are: Bṛghu, Atri, Vasiṣṭha, Viśvakarmā, Maya, Nārada, Nagnajit, Viśālākṣa, Brahmā, Kumāra, Nandiśa, Śaunaka, Garga, Vāśudeva, Śukra, Bṛhaspati and Aniruddha. (Matsya Purāṇa, Chapter 252, verses 2 and 3).

According to Mahābhārata Lord Śiva wrote a book "Vaiśālākṣa" containing ten thousand chapters dealing with Dharmārthakāmas. Purandara condensed it into a book of five thousand chapters called 'Bāhudantaka'. Purandara gave that book that name in honour of his mother who was called Bāhudantī. (Chapters 59, 89 and 90, Śānti Parva).

PURAÑJANA. A king. The story of this king was told to king Prācinabarhis by Nārada to illustrate the truth that those who kill yajña cows on earth would surely suffer its consequences at one time or another.

Purañjana once started on a tour after killing a few yajña cows. His aim was to build a new palace. After walking alone for a long time he reached the neighbourhood of Himālayas. While wandering in the forests he saw a beautiful garden and by its side a big castle with nine tower-gates. It was the residence of the Gandharva lady Purañjanī. She had innumerable girl companions and her castle was guarded by a five-hooded cobra called Prajāgiri.

Purañjanī fell in love with Purañjana at first sight and their greetings and subsequent talks ended in their marriage. Thus Purañjana became the husband of Purañjanī and they lived happily an erotic life for a hundred years. Then one day the king went for hunting alone. Even that separation for a little while from Purañjanī was unbearable to Purañjana and he returned to his palace soon. Purañjanī did not come to receive him. On enquiry her companions informed the king that Purañjanī was lying on the floor with grief unable to bear the separation from the king. Purañjana consoled her and they lived again for many years in perfect happiness. Then one thing happened.

Kāla had a daughter named Kālakanyakā who lived a very wicked and vicious life. She wanted to get married but nobody wanted to be her husband. She went about in search of a husband. Pūru became her husband for some time but she was soon divorced by him. She approached a Yavana king named Bhaya who had a brother called Prajvara. Bhaya did not want to take that woman as his wife and so sent her back with a boon that she could stand in hiding and enjoy all men she liked. He sent his brother Prajvara for her help. She roamed about like that for some time and came back again to Bhaya. Kālakanyakā, Bhaya and Prajvara joined together and gathering a strong army attacked Purañjana. A grim battle followed which lasted for several years in the end of which Purañjana was defeated and taken captive. While he was being taken as a prisoner a herd of wild cows attacked Purañjana and he was killed. After that he was born as a princess named Vaidarbhī. Malayadhvaja, king of Pāṇḍya, married her and got seven celebrated sons. Agastya married the daughter of Malayadhvaja. (4th Skandha, Bhāgavata).

PURAÑJAYA. A king of Ayodhyā. See under Kākutṣtha.