

a girl named Vidyullekhā. All their wealth was stolen by thieves and grief-stricken they attempted to commit suicide by jumping into the fire. They saw two swans flying towards them and without waiting for them to reach them they committed suicide. In their next birth they became a swan couple. They lived on a date tree during rainy seasons. Once in a storm the tree fell down and in the darkness each went its own way. In the morning the male swan started searching for his mate. In the end he found her in the lake of Mānasa in Svarga. They lived there happily till the rainy season was over and then they went and stayed on a mountain. One day a forester killed the she-swan and while coming with the dead swan in his hands he saw a set of armed men coming that way and the frightened forester threw the dead swan into a lake nearby. The dead swan came in touch with the Mṛtasañjivani herb in the pond and coming to life flew away.

The husband swan went into another group of swans and lived there in sorrow. One day a fisherman came and caught all the swans in a net. At that time the she-swan came there and finding her husband in the net felt very sad. She was thinking of some way to get her husband released from the net when a man came to bathe in the pond. He wrapped the diamond necklace of his in a cloth and placed it on the shore. The she-swan took the necklace and flew making the fisherman see everything before him. Seeing the swan going with the necklace the fisherman went after it. The swan flew to a mountain nearby and placed it on its top. The fisherman started climbing up and the she-swan then flew back and released her husband from the net. One day while they were flying making a lotus as an umbrella a hunter shot them down with arrows. Fortunately the lotus fell on an idol of Śiva and by the power of Śiva they were born in their next birth as a king and a woman. The king is yourself and the woman is Vinayavatī."

Puṣkarākṣa married her there and returning to his land lived happily for a long period. (Taraṅga 2, Śaśāṅkavatīlambaka, Kathāsaritsāgara).

PUŠKARĀKṢA II. A king. Puṣkarākṣa, son of king Sucandra, was cut to death by Paraśurāma. (Brahmāṇḍa Purāṇa, Chapter 3).

PUŠKARAMĀLINĪ. A very virtuous woman. She was the wife of a sage named Satya who lived on alms in the country of Vidarbha. Because she was very strict and perfect in the observance of vratas she became lean but pure. She was very obedient to her husband and she made her own dress out of peacock feathers gathered from forests. Puṣkaramālinī was against sacrificing cows in yajñas. (Chapter 246, Śānti Parva).

PUŠKARINĪ I. Wife of Cākṣuṣa Manu. Cākṣuṣa got of Puṣkarinī a son named Manu. (Chapter 18, Agni Purāṇa).

PUŠKARINĪ II. Wife of Bhumanyu, emperor of Bhārata. Bhumanyu got of his wife Puṣkarinī, six sons named Suhotra, Diviratha, Suhotā, Suhavis, Suyajus and Ṛcika. (Chapter 94, Ādi Parva).

PUŠKARINĪ III. Wife of king Unmukha. Unmukha got of his wife Puṣkarinī six sons named Arga, Sumanas, Khyāti, Kratu, Aṅgiras and Gaya. (4th Skandha, Bhāgavata).

PUŠPA. A serpent born of the family of Kaśyapa. (Śloka 13, Chapter 103, Udyoga Parva).

PUŠPADAMŚTRA. A prominent serpent of the family of Kaśyapa. (Śloka 12, Chapter 35, Ādi Parva).

PUŠPADANTA I. One of the Aṣṭadiggajas. (The eight elephants of the quarters).

PUŠPADANTA II. One of the three soldiers given to Subrahmaṇya by Pārvatī. The other two were Unmāda and Saṅkukarṇa. (Śloka 51, Chapter 45, Śalya Parva).

PUŠPADANTA III. One of the attendants of Śiva. Due to a curse Puṣpadanta was born on earth as Vararuci. (See under Vararuci). There was another curse also on him. (See under Jambukeśvara).

PUŠPADANTĪ. A relative of a Gandharva named Citrasena. Puṣpadantī was once dancing in the court of Indra with Mālyavān and other Gandharvas. Puṣpadantī faltered in her steps as she was admiring the beauty of Mālyavān and Indra cursed them both and turned them into devils. They then observed the Ekādaśī (eleventh day of every lunar fortnight) called 'Jayā' and got themselves released from the curse. (Chapter 43, Uttara Khaṇḍa, Padma Purāṇa).

PUŠPAKA I. A divine Aerial Chariot.

1) *Origin.* Viśvakarmā had a daughter named Sañjñā. She was married to Sūrya. But Sañjñā could not live with Sūrya for long because of the terrible heat and so she came back and told her father about it. At once Viśvakarmā ordered Sūrya to come to him and the former then tried to reduce his brightness by rubbing him on a grindstone. However much he tried he was not able to reduce even an eighth of his brightness. The brightness of the Sun which was rubbed out spread in the atmosphere as suspended lustrous particles. Viśvakarmā collected that lustrous dust and from it created four brilliant things. The Cakrāyudha of Mahāviṣṇu is one, the Trīśūla of Śiva is another, and the third is Puṣpakavimāna (Puṣpaka Aerial chariot). The fourth is Śakti, a weapon of Subrahmaṇya. Viśvakarmā gave them all as presents to Brahmā. (Chapter 2, An 2, Viṣṇu Purāṇa).

2) *How Kubera got the Puṣpaka.* Vaiśravaṇa alias Kubera was the son born to Viśravas of his wife Devavarṇinī, daughter of sage Bharadvāja. Viśravas did penance to please Brahmā to get a son and Vaiśravaṇa was born by the blessing of Brahmā. Kubera also, even while he was a boy, went to the valley of Himavān and did penance there. Kubera did penance for ten thousand years with his head downwards in cold water and another ten thousand years in Pañcāgni standing on one leg. At that time Brahmā appeared in person and asked what boon he wanted. He said he wanted to be one of the lokapālakas (guardians of the universe). Granting Kubera that, Brahmā gave him two treasures named Saṅkhanidhi and Padmanidhi and also the Puṣpakavimāna. After that Kubera built a city named Laṅkā on the mountain of Trikūṭa in the southern ocean and started living there.

3) *How Rāvaṇa got the Puṣpaka.* Viśravas had three more sons named Rāvaṇa, Kumbhakarṇa and Vibhīṣaṇa. They did penance and acquired divine powers. Rāvaṇa then went to Laṅkā and after defeating Kubera and sending him north captured Laṅkā and made it his capital. He also took by force the Puṣpaka from Kubera.

All the victory marches of Rāvaṇa were in this Puṣpaka. Once Rāvaṇa was going in his Puṣpaka with a Yakṣa