

PRABHADRĀ. Wife of the son of Karna, King of Anṅa. She is called Bhadrāvati also. (Jaimini Bhārata, Aśva-medha Parva, Chapter 63).

PRABHADRAKA. A special division of the army of Pāncālarāja. This division comprises of Kṣatriyas only. Dhṛṣṭadyumna and Śikhaṇḍī were its leaders. During the Kurukṣetra battle Śalya slew many of the Prabhadrakas. The rest of the Prabhadrakas were killed by Āśvatthāmā while they were sleeping. (Chapter 8, Sautika Parva; Chapter 57, Udyoga Parva; Chapter 19, Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 11, Śalya Parva).

PRABHĀKARA I. A serpent born of the race of Kaśyapa. Śloka 15, Chapter 35, Ādi Parva).

PRABHĀKARA II. A great sage born of the race of Atri. This sage married the ten daughters of Ghṛtācī born of Raudrāśva (Bhadrāśva) of the family of Pūru. The names of the daughters are Rudrā, Śūdrā, Maladā, Bhadrā, Malahā, Khaladā, Naladā, Surasā, Gocapalā and Strīratnakūṭā.

Once when the Sun was in distress while he was being devoured by Rāhu, Sage Prabhākara said 'Svasti' to give salvation for the Sun and instantly the Sun came out from Rāhu's hold and shone brightly as before. It was as a result of this virtuous deed that the sage got the name Prabhākara. By his great knowledge and eminence he kept glowing the fame of Atrikula earned by generations.

Sage Prabhākara conducted a Yāga and on the occasion the devas presented him with great wealth and ten sons (Harivaṁśa, 1. 81-8.17).

PRABHĀKARA III. The sixth division of the land of Kuśadvīpa. (Śloka 13, Chapter 12, Bhīṣma Parva).

PRABHAÑJANA I. The first son of Citravāhana, king of Maṇipura. Citravāhana who was without a son for a long time did penance for obtaining a son. Śiva was pleased with his penance and he blessed him and assured him of a son soon. (Śloka 29, Chapter 214, Ādi Parva).

PRABHAÑJANA II. A king. He performed Śiva-worship for ten thousand years and attained Dikpālakatva. The name of his son was Pūtātmā. (Skanda Purāṇa, 41, 13).

PRABHAÑJANA III. A Kṣatriya king. Once this king killed a deer while it was breast-feeding its child and by a curse of the mother-deer Prabhāñjana had to live as a tiger for a hundred years. When the period of the curse was coming to an end, the tiger heard the advice of a cow called Nandā and got himself transformed into his original form of the king. (Chapter 18, Sṛṣṭi Khaṇḍa, Padma Purāṇa).

PRABHĀNU. A son born to Śrī Kṛṣṇa of his wife Satyabhāmā. (10th Skandha, Bhāgavata).

PRABHĀSA I. A son born to Dharmadeva of his wife Prabhātā. This Prabhāsa is considered to be one of the aṣṭavasus. Prabhāsa's wife was the sister of Brhaspati, a widely travelled virtuous woman of renowned chastity and great yogic attainments. (Śloka 17, Chapter 66, Ādi Parva; Chapter 15, Amā 1, Viṣṇu Purāṇa).

PRABHĀSA II The sacred place called Prabhāsatīrtha. This place of Purāṇic importance is situated in Saurāṣṭra on the west coast. This is called Somatīrtha also. Some facts about this tīrtha from the Purāṇas are given below :

(i) During the pilgrimage of Arjuna he did penance for a thousand divine years standing on one foot at Prabhāsa. Śloka 15, Chapter 12, Vana Parva).

(ii) Agnideva resides in this place. One who bathes in the holy pond there would get the benefit of doing Agniṣṭomayajña. (Śloka 58, Chapter 82, Vana Parva).

(iii) Once Yudhiṣṭhira along with his brothers came and did penance here. (Śloka 15, Chapter 118, Vana Parva).

(iv) Prabhāsatīrtha is dear to Indra. (Śloka 7, Chapter 130, Vana Parva).

(v) Those who bathe in the holy pond in Prabhāsa are taken to heaven in Vimānas and they then by songs of praise wake up the celestial maidens there. (Śloka 9, Chapter 25, Anuśāsana Parva).

(vi) It was at this Prabhāsatīrtha that the Yādavas fought against one another and destroyed themselves. (Śloka 10, Chapter 3, Mausala Parva).

(vii) Śrī Kṛṣṇa and Balarāma merged with the Supreme spirit at this place. (Chapter 4, Mausala Parva).

(viii) The son of sage Sāndīpani was kidnapped by Pāncajāna while the former was bathing in this tīrtha. (10th Skandha, Bhāgavata).

(ix) It was while standing on the shore of the Prabhāsa pond that Arjuna first heard about Subhadrā. (10th Skandha, Bhāgavata).

PRABHĀTA. See under Sṛṣṭi.

PRABHĀTĀ. Wife of Dharmadeva. Dharmadeva begot of her two sons named Pratyūṣa and Prabhāsa. Both were Vasus. (Śloka 17, Chapter 66, Ādi Parva).

PRABHĀVATĪ I. A woman who was engaged in penance at the abode of Mayāsura. One of the batches of monkeys that went to different places in search of Sitā met Prabhāvatī. (Śloka 4, Chapter 282, Vana Parva).

PRABHĀVATĪ II. The wife of Sūryadeva. (Śloka 8, Chapter 117, Udyoga Parva).

PRABHĀVATĪ III. A female follower of Subrahmaṇya. (Śloka 3, Chapter 46, Śal a Parva).

PRABHĀVATĪ IV. Wife of Citraratha, king of Anṅa. This Prabhāvatī was the eldest sister of Ruci, wife of Devaśarmā. (Śloka 8, Chapter 42, Anuśāsana Parva).

PRABHĀVATĪ V. Daughter of the demon Vajranābha. She was married to Pradyumna, son of Śrī Kṛṣṇa.

There was once a very valiant demon called Vajranābha. He went into the valley of Meru and performed penance to propitiate Brahmā. Brahmā appeared before him and he got from him boons such as strength to conquer and subdue all kings, the secret of leaving the body and entering that of others etc. Empowered with these boons he made Vajranābhapura his capital. He got a daughter named Prabhāvatī. His brother Sunābha had two daughters named Candramatī and Guṇavatī.

While he was thus living there, he set out on a campaign of victory. He conquered the whole world and then turned his eyes towards Svarga. Going to Indraloka he told thus : "Hi, son of Kaśyapa, I am also born of Kaśyapa. Your mother Aditi and my mother Diti are both wives of Kaśyapaprajāpati. You ruled over Svarga till this time. Now, let me rule over it for some time." Indra was embarrassed by this logical challenge and could not give any reply to him. Kaśyapaprajāpati was then performing a long Yāga and Indra replied he would find a solution to his demand when their father returned after the Yāga. From that moment onwards Indra started thinking of plans to destroy Vajranābha. He went and sought help from Śrī Kṛṣṇa residing in Dvārakā. Kṛṣṇa promised to help him when the time came,