Although acknowledged as a son of [Pandu], he was in fact conceived by Batara [Darma] since a curse forbade [Pandu] from having intercourse with his wives. Known for his noble character. He is so pure in spirit that when he walks his feet don't touch the ground and neither do his chariots. He is capable of anger, in which case he reveals himself as \tiwikrama\. In the Javanese version he is the only consort of [Drupadi], who [Werkudara] wins for him in a contest by defeating [Gandamana] (such was the condition set by her father [Drupada] to give her hand in marriage). Although he is the true heir to Astina, after [Pandu] died, [Destarastra] was briefly king before abdicating in favor of [Duryudana], having thought that the Pandawa had died in a fire. The Pandawa then built the Kingdom of Amarta in the Wanamarta forest. This place was originally inhabited by genies, who were led by [Yudhistira]. The Pandawa defeat the genies who then come to fuse themselves with the Pandawa. [Yudistira] thus becomes one with Puntadewa.

<br/>Although noble in character, he once made a terrible mistake and ended up loosing his kingdom to the Korawa, in a game of dice organized by [Sengkuni]. They were exiled in the forest for twelve years and an additional year in the Wirata kingdom. While there, Puntadewa took the identity of Dwijakangka, an expert in history or a foreman, depending on the version. During the Baratayuda war, he lied to [Durna] about the death of [Aswatama] (an elephant named Aswatama was killed but [Bisma]'s son of the same name was alive). After this lie, Puntadewa was afterwards considered as normal human being by the gods, and he touched the ground when he walked. After the war, he refused to sit in the throne for a year, until Kresna and Abiyasa convinced him. He eventually died with his brothers after ruling for several years, before passing on the kingdom to Parikesit.