

Golden Jubilee of India's Independence Series-27



# STUDIES IN PURĀṆAS



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## PREFACE

The present book owes its origin and its publication to the warm and kind invitation of Dr. K.K. Mishra, Director, Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi to contribute a monograph in the plan of the publication of 50 monographs in the *Golden Jubilee of India's Independence Sanskrit Series* as a part of the celebrations of Golden Jubilee of India's Independence.

*Purāṇas* are one of the great and rich literary sources and records spanning over a long period of time containing India's great cultural traditions and heritage in their multiple aspects. They have carried forward the *Vedic* legacy in their own dynamic way to maintain the unimpaired sense of unity of India and continuity of India<sup>1</sup>. They have generated in the past and continue to generate in their own way the notion of national unity and integrity by unique institution of *tīrthayātrā* and have bequeathed the idea of human welfare and world-peace in their own way.

I have, therefore, selected for this monograph some of my published, however scattered papers dealing with the cultural heritage as dealt in the

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1. Munshi, K.M., Foreword, to A.D.Pusaker's monograph: *Studies in Epics and Purāṇas*, Bombay, 1955, p.ix.

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implored the *pitṛs* to mend the matters. The *pitṛs* of magnanimous heart prognosticated graciously her birth as the daughter of king Vasu and the regainment of her worlds whence return is impossible and to have sons named Bādarāyaṇa by Parāśara, Citrāṅgada and Vicitravīrya by Śantanu<sup>1</sup> and to be known as Satyavati in this world and Aṣṭakā in the *Pitṛloka*. In her honour, a river is named as Acchodā (14.18-20). That these *pitṛs* of Ṛgvedic antiquity<sup>2</sup> fashioned out the Acchoda lake may suggest that they were good architects also. (14.3).

#### **Barhiṣatpitṛs :**

Virtuous Barhiṣad *pitṛs*<sup>3</sup> of Ṛgvedic antiquity,<sup>4</sup> whose abode is the *Vaibhrāja* regions<sup>5</sup> wherein are the aerial cars in thousands yoked with peacocks and the sacrificial grass meant for saṅkalpa is a fruit-giver and the offerers of Śrāddha rejoice in the blessed pavilions, are adored by the host of gods and *Asuras* and *Gandharvas*, the bebies of nymphs and the group of *Yakṣas* and *Rākṣasas* and divinities in heaven.<sup>6</sup> These hundred sons of Pulastya, noble,

1. Vide Dikshitar V.R.R., *op. cit.*, Vol. I, p. 27.

2. RV.10. 15. 4, 11.; also vide Kane P.V., *op. cit.*, Vol. IV. pp. 343 f.

3. Dikshitar V.R.R., *op. cit.*, Vol. II, p. 460.

4. RV. 10.15.4, 11; also vide Kane P.V., *op. cit.*, p. 343 f.

5. विभ्राजा नाम चान्ये तु दिवि मन्ति सुवर्चसम् ।  
लोका, बहिषदो यत्र पितरः मन्ति मृत्रताः ॥ MP. 15.1

6. MP. 15.2 ff.





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