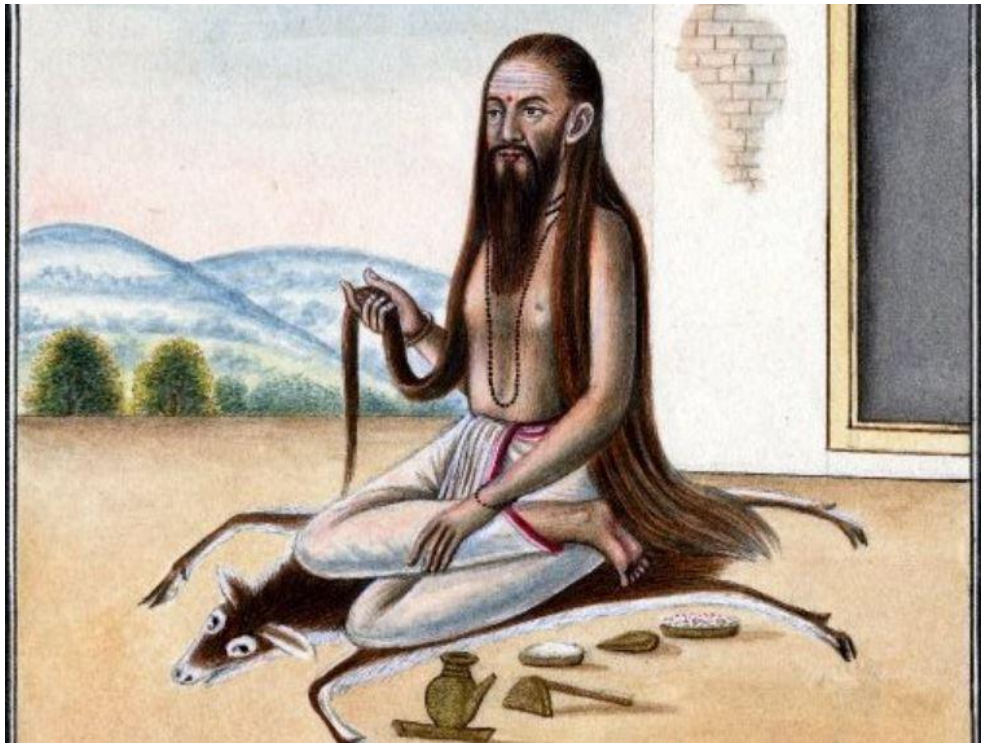


Names of Saptarishi – Seven Great Sages

The Saptarshi of the current Manvantara according to Brihadaranyaka Upanishad are listed below in this article. Brihadaranyaka Upanishad is one of the earliest Upanishadic.

1. Bharadwaja

He is one of the greatest sage in Vedic times and also a descendant of sage Angirasa. His father is Devarsi Brihaspati. Sage Bharadwaja is the Author of



Ayurveda. He is the father of Guru Dronacharya and his ashrama still [exists in Allahabad](#). He was also a master of advanced military arts, including the Devastras. His wife is Suseela with whom he had a daughter named Devavarnini and son Garga.

Dronacharya (Guru of Pandavas and Kauravas) was born as

a result of his attraction to Apsara.

According to some of the Puranas, Bharadwaja was found on banks of river Ganga and adopted by [king Bharata](#). He had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge of Vedas and in addition meditated for Indra, Lord Shiva and Parvathi for more Vedic Knowledge

2. Vishwamitra

Vishwamitra is one of the most well-known Sapatarishi and the great sages who discovered the [Gayatri Mantra](#), found in [the Vedas](#). Usually, one cannot rise to the level of a Brahmarishi through merit alone, since the order was created divinely and is appointed by Lord Brahma. However, Vishwamitra rose to the position of a Brahmarishi through his own merit alone.

His epic tussle with Vasishtha for the position of the greatest sage of all time makes a very interesting story. He was not a Brahmana by birth, but a Kshatriya (warrior). Having fought, lost and then pardoned by the Sage Vasista, it made a deep



impression on the King. He realized that the power obtained by penances was greater than mere physical might. He renounced his kingdom and began his quest to become a greater sage than Vasishtha. He took on the name Vishwamitra.

After many trials and undergoing many austerities for thousands of years, Vishwamitra at last obtained the title of Brahmarishi from Bramha and Vasishtha himself.

3. Vashista

Rishi Vasishtha is one of the Saptarishi of this Manvantara and husband of Arundathi. He is the mind-born son of Lord Brahma and the Raja-guru of the Surya Vamsha or the Solar dynasty. He is the author of Vasisht Samhita a treatise on electional astrology. He and his family are glorified in a hymn in the Rig Veda.

Lord Rama once explains his disenchantment with worldly things and expresses



sadness at the miserable life as a worldly man to King Dasaratha after returning from a pilgrimage of holy places. Then the Sage Vasishtha starts answering the questions posed by Lord Rama. This is the context and content of the scripture called “Yoga Vasistha”.

4.Gautama

Gautama Rishi belongs to the lineage of Angiras. His sons were Vamadeva, Nodhas,

Shatananda and were one of the earliest writers on Law. He also authored the Gautama Dharma Sutra and The Rig & Sama Vedic mantras.

His wife was Ahalya, who was the daughter of Lord Brahma. At the appropriate time, the Lord



announced that whosoever goes around the Earth first shall win Ahalya’s hand. Gautama Rishi went around the divine cow thus fulfilling the condition. Ahalya and Gautama Rishi were married.

Gautama Rishi was a person without ego. When the people of the land suffered a draught, the Maharishi set out to meditate upon Lord Varuna. Pleased with his single-mindedness, Lord Varuna appeared. The Rishi asked Varuna for rain. Lord Varuna explained “The Law demands that there should not be rain in the place for this period of time. I cannot go against the Law since all five forces are governed by Lord Shiva. Ask me anything else.” Maharishi immediately requested for an incessant supply of water in the reservoir. Thus Gautama Rishi saved many people.

5.Atri



Sage Atri is one of the Saptarishi in the current Manvantara and a son of Brahma. He is one among the Sages who propounded the sacred thread (Poonal). Sage Atri’s wife is Anusuya, an embodiment of chastity. He is considered to be one of the great discoverers of sacred mantras. Atri Samhita and Atri Smriti are two works of the great sage.

Anasuya is known for chastity. One day Trimurty decided to test and arrives at her home as Brahmins. They ask her to serve food in naked. She agrees and converts them into kids. Surprised with the power of her chastity trinity of gods requests to give their original form and hence she becomes their mother. Anasuya gave birth to [Lord Dattatreya](#) as an avatar of Trinity – Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.

6.Kashyapa



Kashyapa Rishi is one of the most popular ancient Rishi and Saptarishi. He is the son of Rishi Marichi and grandson of Brahma. He was the father of Devas, Asuras, Nagas, garudas, Vamana, Agni, Adityas, Daityas, Aryaman, Mitra, Pusan, Varuna, and all Humanity. He is the progenitor, Prajapati. He was an author of Kashyapa Samhitha which is a classical reference book in the field of Ayurvedic Paediatrics, Gynecology, and Obstetrics.

In the story of King Parikshith killed by Serpent Takshaka, Kashyapa arrives to stop it when Takshaka challenges him by biting a tree and turning it into ashes. Kashyapa restores the tree with his yogic powers and defeats the serpent. However, it explains the curse of Brahmin Boy and tells that consequences have to be faced. Sage understanding the future of King leaves the place taking offerings from Takshaka. Soon he realizes that what done is not correct and visits Tirupathi for getting rid of sin.

7.Jamadagni



Jamadagni is the father of Parashurama, the sixth avatar of Vishnu. Also the descendant of sage Bhrigu one of the Prajapatis created by Brahma. His wife was Renuka, who used to fetch water from the river in an unbaked clay pot with the power of her chastity. One day her heart was filled with desire when a group of Gandharvas is passing in the sky. The pot dissolved. She being afraid of her husband doesn't come home. Jamadagni knowing this from his yogic powers asks Parashurama to kill her mother which he did.

Our ancestral lineage, Gotras, relates directly to the Saptarishi. A Gotra is a lineage or clan assigned to a Hindu at birth. In most cases, the system is paternal and the Gotra assigned is that of the person's father. The term Gotra itself, according to strict Hindu tradition is used only for the lineages of Brahmin, Kshatriya and Vysya families. Hence, the child is given a particular Gotra in relation to the particular clan of Saptarishi they belong to.