

Born in the *kula* of Valnateya (Garuḍa), in the *vanśa* of Kaśyapa; feeding on serpents; marked with *śrīvatsa*, his deity is Viṣṇu; by action a Kṣatriya not obtaining Brahminhood because indulging in destroying his kinsmen 5. 99. 2-8.

Nanda m. : A mythical serpent, living in Bhogavatī Purī 5. 101. 12, 1.

Son of Surasā and Kaśyapa 5. 101. 4, 17; description 5. 101. 5-7.

Nandaka m. : A mythical serpent, living in Bhogavatī Purī 5. 101. 11, 1.

Son of Surasā and Kaśyapa 5. 101. 4, 17; description 5. 101. 5-7.

Nandinī (Nandī) f. : A mythical cow.

A. Birth : Born of Surabhī, Dakṣa's daughter, and Kaśyapa 1. 93. 8; also called Nandī 1. 165. 15, 24, 25. B. Qualities and Description : She was capable of fulfilling all desires, hence called *sarvakāmadughā* 1. 93. 9, *sarvakāmaduh* 1. 93. 13; 1. 165. 9-11; the best cow (*uttamā gauḥ*) 1. 93. 18, 13; the mortal who drank her milk lived for ten thousand years, remaining young all along (*sthirayauvanah*) 1. 93. 19; description 1. 93. 15, 31; 1. 165. 13, 14, 21. C. Association with Vasiṣṭha : She was given to Vasiṣṭha (son of Varuṇa) as his *homadhenu* (who supplied milk for giving oblations); she was seen moving in the forest by the wife of Dyaus, one of the eight Vasus 1. 93. 13; at her request Dyaus, together with other Vasus, abducted Nandinī and her calf to be given away to princess Jinavatī who was a friend of the wife of Dyaus 1. 93. 26, 28, 21-23; [when cursed by Vasiṣṭha (1. 93. 31) the Vasus possibly returned Nandinī and her calf to Vasiṣṭha 1. 93. 34]. D. Conflict between Vasiṣṭha and Viśvāmitra : Viśvā-

mitra, while on a visit to Vasiṣṭha, was surprised at the qualities of Nandinī; he asked Vasiṣṭha to give her to him in exchange for an *arbuda* cows or even his kingdom; Vasiṣṭha declined to part with Nandinī as she was needed for the worship of gods, guests and manes; Viśvāmitra then declared his intention to forcibly take her away; Viśvāmitra and his army used force to take her away; they beat her with whips, rods and stones and bound her calf with a rope; lowering she approached Vasiṣṭha; when she knew that Vasiṣṭha would not do anything to stop Viśvāmitra out of forbearance and also that his non-intervention did not mean he wanted to forsake her she assumed a terrible form (*prababhau ghoradarśanā*) and produced from parts of her body and excretions various tribes like Pahlavas, Śakas, Śabaras and others equipped with weapons; Viśvāmitra's army was routed and his attempt to take away Nandinī was foiled 1. 165. 2-40.

Nala m. : A monkey-chief.

A. Birth : Son of God Tvaṣṭr, Viśvakarman 3. 267. 41. B. Skill : As an excellent builder, he was respected by the artisans (*śilpisaṁmataḥ*) 3. 267. 41; whatever wood, or straw, or stone he might throw in the ocean that would not sink; at the suggestion of the ocean, who appeared before Rāma, he was asked to build a bridge across the ocean; this bridge is even now known as Nalasetu which in appearance is like a mountain (*girisāmmibhaḥ*) 3. 267. 43-45. C. Part in the war : He was one of the monkey-chiefs who protected Rāma's army of monkeys on its way to the southern ocean 3. 267. 19; he fought a duel with the demon Tuṅḍa 3. 269. 8; he, with other monkey-chiefs, watched over the bodies of Rāma and Lakṣmaṇa lying