

Born in the *kula* of Vainateya (Garuḍa), in the *vaṁśa* 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.

Surabhi¹, Surabhī f. : A mythical cow.

A. Origin : (1) Daughter of Dakṣa, hence called Dākṣāyaṇī 1. 93. 8 (Surabhī); 12. 167. 3; 13. 82. 26; once, (Dakṣa) Prajāpati satisfied with drinking *amṛta*, emitted fragrance (*surabhi*) while belching; he saw his daughter Surabhi coming out of his mouth produced by belching (*udgārasamvṛtā*) 13. 76. 17, 18; hence described as 'born of nectar' (*amṛtasambhavā*) 5. 100. 1; (2) Daughter of Brahman 13. 128. 10 (Surabhī).

B. Description : *devī* 'divine' 1. 93. 8; 2. 11. 29; 13. 82. 30, 31, 34; 13. 151. 7 and *śubhā*, *śobhanā* 'brilliant, shining' her special epithets 3. 10. 8, 15; 12. 167. 3; 13. 82. 29, 31, 37; 'gentle' (*saumyā*) 13. 151. 7, yet 'very proud' (*atigarvī*) 1. 93. 8; 'blameless' (*aninditā*) and 'distinguished' (*mahābhāgā*) 5. 100. 3, 13. 82. 30, 31.

C. Qualities : Surabhi yields nectar as milk (*amṛtadhenuṁ payomuṣam / sā ṛṣṭā... kṣaramāṇā payo'mṛtam* 13. 128. 10); Surabhi yields milk after reaching the outskirts of the Kāñcana mountain on the shore of the ocean in which flows golden water (*kāñcanaśailasya kāñcanāmbuvahasya ca / udadhes tīram āśādyā*) 5. 108. 10. D. Progeny : She gave birth to a cow (Nandinī) by Kaśyapa; Vasiṣṭha got Nandinī as his *homadhenu* 1. 93. 8; mother of cows (*gavāṁ mātā*) 3. 219. 32; 5. 100. 1; mother of cows yielding nectar-like milk (*payo'mṛtam*) 13. 128. 10; mother of cows who are themselves mothers of the world (*lokamātarāḥ*) 13. 76. 18; four cows

born to her, Surūpā, Hamsakā, Subhadrā and Sarvakāmadughā, dwell in four directions protecting and guarding them 5. 100. 7-10; mother of bulls 3. 10. 7. E. Eminence :

(1) The Goloka granted to Surabhī by Brahman stands above the three worlds; as decreed by Brahman, Surabhī was to get there all human and divine enjoyments and happiness of dwelling in heaven; her worlds are provided with all objects of desire and neither death, nor old age, nor fire steps in there; neither wretchedness nor inauspiciousness is met with in the Goloka; the Goloka could be obtained by mortals only by practising great austerities and doing good deeds 13. 82. 37-40; (2) She is mentioned in the *daivata-vaṁśa* narrated by Bhīṣma to Yudhiṣṭhira; recitation of this *vaṁśa* destroys sin 5. 151. 7, 2; (3) She is mentioned among those who are present in the *sabhā* of Brahmadeva 2. 11. 29.

F. Functions : Residing in the *rasātala*, the seventh world of the earth, she lets milk flow continually which is produced from the essence of the earth and which, as a *rasa*, constitutes the essence of all the six *rasas*; out of her milk, falling on the earth, is created the sea of milk; water of the ocean that was churned by the gods and the demons was mixed with the milk of Surabhi and her four daughters; milk oozing from Surabhi provides nectar (*sudhā*) to those whose food is *sudhā*, *svadhā* for the manes, and *amṛta* for those who live on *amṛta* 5, 100. 1, 2, 4, 7-13. G. Events :

(1) Seeing Aditi practising severe austerities, Surabhi did the same on the peak of the Kailāsa mountain, standing on one foot and resorting to the highest *yoga* (*paramaṁ yogam āsthī*) 13. 82. 28); this she did for ten thousand and ten hundred years; tormented by