

Yadu, Yādava m. (pl.) : Name of a people, often identified with Vṛṣṇis so that their accounts get mixed up; sometimes mentioned also along with Andhakas and Bhojas.

A. Origin : Yādavas were born in the line of Yadu, son of Yayāti (*yados tu yādavā jātāḥ*) 1. 80. 26; (*yaduś ca ... yādavānām kulakaro ...*) 5. 147. 6-7; the lineage of Yadus is traced back to Vivasvant (*putrā vivasvataḥ sarve ... tebhyo 'yaṁ kuruvamśaś ca yadūnām bharatasya ca*) 1. 1. 41, 44; Other accounts : (1) Baladeva and Kṛṣṇa were born from the two hair—one white and the other black—plucked by Hari and which entered Rohiṇī and Devakī of the lineage of Yadus; (*sa cāpi keśau harir udbabarha suklam ekam aparam cāpi kṛṣṇam | tau cāpi keśau viśatām yadūnām kule striyau rohiṇīm devakīm ca | tayoṛ eko baladevo babbhūva kṛṣṇo dvitīyaḥ*) 1. 189. 31; (2) Nārāyaṇa was born on this earth (as Kṛṣṇa) in the house of Yadus and in the lineage of Andhakas and Vṛṣṇis (*...nārāyaṇaḥ ... ajāyata yadukṣaye | kṣitāv-andhakavṛṣṇinām vaṁśe*) 2. 33. 16-17 (Nl. on Bom. Ed. 2. 36. 16 : *yadukṣaye yadugrhe*). B. Glorification of the family of Yadus and of their narrative : Kings born in the lineage of Yadus were incarnations of gods (*iti devāsuraṇām te ... aṁśāvataraṇām rājan ... kīrtitam || ... mahātmāno yadūnām ca ye jātā vipule kule*) 1. 61. 99-100, also cf. 92; the narrative of the family of Yādavas, as also of Pauravas and Bhāratas, is holy, leads to well-being, brings wealth, fame and long life (*yādavānām imāṁ vaṁśam ... puṇyaṁ svastyayanām mahat | dhanyaṁ yaśasyam āyuṣyaṁ...*)

1. 70. 2. C. Description : Of unlimited energy (*amṛtaujas*) 16. 9. 12; spirited, of true valour, very strong; led by Kṛṣṇa, they all were like Indra and got all enjoyments (*kṛṣṇapraṇītāḥ sarva evendrakalpāḥ | manasvinaḥ satyaparākramāś ca | mahā-balā yādavā bhogavantaḥ ||*) 5. 28. 12 (Nl. on Bom. Ed. 5. 28. 12 : *kṛṣṇapraṇītāḥ kṛṣṇenaiva nītipatham nītāḥ*); their kings were magnanimous (*mahātmān*) 1. 61. 100. D. Epic events : (1) Yādavas, Andhakas and Bhojas had abandoned Kāṁsa in the interest of the family; after he was killed by Kṛṣṇa, all his kinsmen lived happily for a hundred years (*andhakā yādavā bhojāḥ sametāḥ kāmśam atyajan | ... evaṁ te jñātayaḥ sarve modamānāḥ śataṁ samāḥ ||*) 2. 55. 6-7; *kāmśam ekam parityajya kulārthe sarvayādavāḥ | sambhūya sukhāṁ edhante ... andhakavṛṣṇayaḥ ||*) 5. 126. 39; (2) Karna advised Duryodhana to use force against Pāṇḍavas before Kṛṣṇa came with the army of Yādavas to help them (*karṣaṇ yādavavāhīnīm*) 1. 194. 15; (3) The messenger sent by Yudhiṣṭhira to Kṛṣṇa reached the country of Yādavas and saw him in Dvārakā (*prāpya yādavān*) 2. 12. 29; (4) Kṛṣṇa spread the fame and pride of Yādavas by killing Śiśupāla (*yaśomānau vardhayan yādavānām*) 5. 22. 26; (5) Pradyumna assured Yādavas that he would destroy the army of Śālva with his arrows 3. 17. 31; 3. 18. 1; (6) Sahadeva recalled that Arjuna had defeated Yādavas who had gathered together when he abducted Subhadrā; Arjuna had then stayed with the Yadus 3. 79. 27; (*yadusadanam*) 8. 26. 63; (7) Bhīma assured Yudhiṣṭhira that Kṛṣṇa with Yādavas would help him to achieve his