

Sudevā was amazed on hearing this story of the dead hog, and asked her again. "You hog! You speak like a human being. How is it?"

The wife of the hog continued the story. "Lady! I also have taken rebirth as a hog. In my previous birth I was the daughter of a Brahmin named Vasudatta (Vāsudeva) in the city of Śrīpura in Kālīṅga. They named me Sudevā (Vasudevā). Because of the unlimited caressing and fondling of my father I grew up as an arrogant girl. In the meanwhile a Brahmin youth named Śivaśarmā, who was well-versed in all the branches of knowledge, and whose parents were dead, came to my house. My father gave me to that brahmin. I lived with him in my father's house. Being proud of the wealth and prosperity of my parents I did not care to render the services due to my husband. My husband who was a peaceful man bore everything. By and by I became wicked. At last because of my wickedness and immorality my husband left the country. My father hated me and expelled me from the house. My father feared that some calamity would happen to me as Kāṁsa was born to Padmāvatī, the wife of Ugrasena, by her illegal connection with persons other than her husband."

Hearing about the birth of Kāṁsa, Sudevā asked the she-hog to tell her about the circumstances which led to the illegal connections of Padmāvatī. The wife of the hog continued. "In days of old there was a king in Mathurāpurī named Ugrasena, who married Padmāvatī the daughter of king Satyaketu of Vidarbha. While the couple were living happily in Mathurāpurī Satyaketu wanted to see his daughter. He sent a messenger to Mathurāpurī and brought Padmāvatī to Vidarbha. She walked along the vicinity of the palace in which she was born, enjoying the beauty of the scenery. She walked on and arrived on the mountain called Puṣpavān, and sat on the bank of a lake. At that time a Gandharva named Godila (Dramila) came there. He fell in love with her. He took the shape of Ugrasena and came near her and talked with her. Thinking that her husband had come from Mathurā to see her she embraced him. After a while she understood that the visitor was not her husband. She began to curse him. The visitor admitted that he was Godila an attendant of Vaiśravaṇa. Godila went on his way. But she had become pregnant by that time. Her parents tried in various ways to destroy the child in her womb. One day the infant lying in her womb told her thus: "Mother! you do not know who I am. I am the rebirth of a powerful asura named Kālanemi. In ancient days Viṣṇu killed me in a battle between the gods and asuras. I have entered into your womb for revenge. Mother! you need not take the trouble to destroy me." Saying so, the infant stopped speaking. After ten years Padmāvatī gave birth to the mighty and strong Kāṁsa. He was killed by Śrī Kṛṣṇa and he attained heaven."

Sudevā was struck with wonder at the story of Kāṁsa. She asked the she-hog to continue her own story. She continued her own story. "I have said that my father expelled me. Being shameless I walked away from there soon. Nobody helped me. Those who saw me scolded me. Days passed. Afflicted by a horrible disease, and travelling in this manner, I came to a big house. I entered the courtyard and begged for alms. It was the house of my husband Śivaśarmā. When I abandoned him he married another woman named Maṅgalā and

was leading a prosperous life. Maṅgalā gave me food. Śivaśarmā asked me who I was. I told him my story. He remembered me, his former wife. Maṅgalā also felt compassion for me. They gave me gold ornaments and made me stay there. But my conscience pricked me. Thus burning internally I died.

My soul went to hell. After the suffering of a very long period, I took birth again as a Jackal. Then I became a dog, and then a snake. After that I passed through the births of a hen, a cat and a rat. Thus Brahmā had put me in the wombs of all kinds of animals. Now I have taken the birth of a she-hog. Lady! Your husband Ikṣvāku is the incarnation of Viṣṇu in portion and yourself, that of Lakṣmī in portion. If you would give me the merits you have earned for one day by your good deeds, I could leave off all these mean births and attain heaven."

The eyes of Sudevā were full when she heard the story of the hog. She gave to the she-hog, the merits she had earned by good deeds for one year. The hog was changed to a divine woman of youth and beauty. Immediately a divine chariot came down from heaven and took her to heaven, while everybody was looking on. Ikṣvāku and Sudevā returned to their palace much pleased at the redemption of the she-hog.

SUDHĀMĀ I. A group of Gods. The name of the Manu of the third Manvantara was Uttama. The ruler of the devas was the Indra named Suśānti. There were five groups or ganas of twelve devas each, called the Satyas, the Japas, the Pratardanas, Sudhāmās and the Vāśavarttins. (Viṣṇu Purāṇa, Amśa 1, Chapter 3).

SUDHĀMĀ II. A golden mountain in the Kuśa island. (M.B. Bhīṣma Parva, Chapter 12, Verse 10).

SUDHĀMĀ III. One of the sons of King Ghṛtapṛṣṭha. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 5).

SUDHANUS I. A King of the Puru dynasty. He was the son of King Kuru who had founded Kurukṣetra. Four sons named Sudhanvā, Sudhanus, Parikṣit and Arimejaya, were born to Kuru. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 278).

SUDHANUS II. A King who was the son of Kuru and the father of Suhotra. The King Uparicaravasu was a King of this dynasty. (Bhāgavata, Skandha 9).

SUDHANUS III. A warrior from Pāṇḍala who took the side of the Pāṇḍavas. This mighty warrior was the son of King Drupada and the brother of Viraketu. In the battle of Bhārata, when Viraketu was killed, Sudhanus gathered his brothers and attacked Droṇa. In that fight Sudhanus was killed by Droṇa. (M.B. Droṇa Parva, Chapter 98, Verses 37-40).

SUDHANVĀ I. A guard of the ends of the quarters. In the beginning of creation Brahmā made four guards of the four ends. They were Sudhanvā in the East, Śaṅkhaṇḍa in the South, Ketumān in the West and Hiraṇyaroṃā in the North. (Agni Purāṇa, Chapter 19).

SUDHANVĀ II. Son of hermit Aṅgiras. Some information gathered from R̥gveda and Mahābhārata is given below.

(i) There arose a contest between Sudhanvā and Virocana, the son of Prahlāda for marrying the damsel Keśinī. (For detailed story see under Keśinī V).

(ii) This hermit visited Bhīṣma in his bed of arrows. (M.B. Anuśāsana Parva, Chapter 26, Verse 7).

(iii) Sudhanvā was the eighth son of Aṅgiras.