

Yugas had come but they were all devoured in the battle-field angrily.

11. In a trice all of them including Brahmā, Indra, Viṣṇu, the sun and the moon were swallowed by Vighasa. When the armies were devoured, only Viraka was left behind.

12. Leaving off the battle front Viraka entered the cavern, bowed to Śiva. The eloquent but distressed Viraka then acquainted the destroyer of Kāma with all the details.

13. O lord, your army has been devoured by the Daitya Vighasa. Viṣṇu, the preceptor and elder to the three worlds and the destroyer of Daityas, has been devoured. The moon and the sun, Brahmā and Indra, the bestowers of boons, have been devoured. All these, Yama, Varuṇa, Vāyu and Kubera have been devoured.

14. I, the humble one, alone am left behind. What is it that I have to do now? The lord of Daityas along with the Daityas is invincible and hence rejoiced.

15. Viṣṇu the lord who became invincible after tearing off Hiranyakaśipu the son of Kaśyapa with his claws, had the speed of wind and a terrifying demeanour. He opened his mouth wide and began to blow of the three worlds although the lord was subservient to the good.

16. When the matter stood thus, he was cursed by the seven sages,³⁰⁴ the virtual lords of the worlds—"You will be crushed by the Daityas for a long time."

17-18. Then they were requested by Viṣṇu through loving words conducive to his benefit—"O great sages, when will I get rid of this terrible curse?" Thereupon the infuriated sages said—"At the time of war you will be hit with fists and struck with terrible arrows. When swallowed by Vighasa with wide open mouth, you shall stabilise yourself in the Badarī forest³⁰⁵ in the holy residence of Śiva, the cavern and shall then be freed from sins." Thereafter in accordance with the curse of the sages he roams everyday in the battle ground, very hungry and swallows the Daityas and becomes delighted.

19-20. By using the science of reviving the dead to

304. See Note 164 P. 163.

305. See Note 242 P. 927.