

15. The Asura who had already scorched the worlds saw that the lotus-born deity had arrived. In order to grant him the boon Dhātṛ the grandfather of the worlds said—“Choose a boon.” On hearing the sweet words of the creator, the Asura of undismayed intellect spoke thus.

Hiranyakaśipu said:—

16-17. “O creator, O lord of subjects, never may I have the fear of death from weapons, missiles, thunderbolts, dry trees, mountains, water, fire and onslaught of enemies—gods, Daityas, sages, Siddhas or in fact from any living being created by you. Why should I expatiate on it? Let there be no death for me in heaven, on earth, in the day time, at night, from above or below, O lord of subjects !”

Sanatkumāra said:—

18. On hearing these words of the Asura, the merciful lotus-born deity bowed to Viṣṇu mentally and spoke—“O lord of Daityas, I am delighted. Attain everything.

19. Stop your penance which has already run on to ninety-six thousand years. You have realised your desires entirely. Stand up. Rule over the kingdom of the Dānavas.” On hearing these words, the Asura was pleased and beaming in his face.

20. He was coronated by Brahmā the great grandfather of the worlds. He became inclined to destroy the three worlds. The highly elated Asuras disturbed all righteous activities and defeated all the gods in battle.

21. Then the terrified Indra and other gods harassed by him got the permission of Brahmā and went to the milk ocean²⁹² where Viṣṇu was lying.

22. Considering him the bestower of happiness, they propitiated and eulogised Viṣṇu with various hymns. When he was pleased they told him their woeful tale.

23-24. On learning their misery in entirety, Viṣṇu, the delighted lord of Lakṣmī granted them boons. Getting up from his couch, Viṣṇu consoled the gods and the sages by means of different words befitting himself. The lord as