

endowed with good qualities and of great renown shone with great splendour. He was being fanned with lustrous chowries.

17. The lustrous umbrella presented by Varuṇa, shining with various gems was held aloft over his head. Beams of light as though of infinite moons shed great lustre around.

18. Indra and other gods of great strength, desirous of fighting, joined him with their own divisions of the army.

19. The gods and the demons stood in their arrays on the ground with a vast army ready to start the battle.

20. With the bards singing their songs of praise, the armies of the gods and the Asuras shone in their eagerness to pounce on and crush each other.

21. The two armies as vast as a wild jungle roared. They were terrific to the coward and pleasing to the brave.

22. In the meantime the rank and file of the Asuras and the gods, haughty of their strength and blazing with fury came together in a mutual clash.

23. A terrific tumultuous fight between the gods and the Asuras ensued. Within a moment the place was littered with severed heads and headless trunks.

24. Wounded and killed by great weapons, hundreds and thousands of heroic soldiers fell on the ground.

25. The arms of some were cut off by terrible blows from swords. Others lost their thighs in the battle of those honourable, heroic people.

26. The entire body of some was smashed by the maces; the chests and hearts of some were pounded by iron clubs; some were felled to the ground by spears and dragged with nooses.

27. The backs of some were torn with javelins and goads. Several heads chopped off by double-edged swords fell on the ground.

28. Hundreds of headless, limbless trunks were seen dancing and bouncing with arrows sticking to their hands.

29. Blood flowed like streams in hundreds of places. Hundreds of ghosts and goblins flocked there.

30. Jackals and vixens began eating the flesh. Numbers