

35. Hence O messenger, go immediately and explain to the Asura, son of the ocean, our purpose for churning the ocean."

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

36. Dismissed thus by Indra, the intelligent emissary Ghasmara hastened to the place where the heroic Jalandhara was present.

37. All the words thus spoken by Indra were narrated to the king of Asuras by the intelligent emissary.

38. On hearing it, the lips of the Asura throbbed with anger. Desirous of conquering the gods he exerted himself immediately.

39. In that enterprise of the lord of the Asuras, countless Asuras from all the quarters and the nether region took part and helped him.

40. Then the extremely heroic and valorous son of the ocean set forth with countless generals, Śumbha, Niśumbha and others.

41. Very soon, he reached the heaven along with his force. He blew his conch. All the heroic soldiers roared.

42. After going to heaven he stationed himself in Nandana. In the midst of all his forces he roared like a lion.

43. On seeing a vast army surrounding the city, the gods came out of Amarāvati fully equipped with armour for the battle.

44-45. Then a battle between the armies of the gods and Asuras ensued. They rushed against one another with iron clubs, arrows, maces, axes and spears. They hit one another. Within a short time both the armies began to wade through streams of blood.

46. In that battle, the ground shone like the dusk with clouds scattered all round, for it was strewn with elephants, horses, chariots and foot-soldiers. Some were killed and others were being killed.

47. Bhārgava resuscitated the Asuras killed in the battle with the Vidyā of Amṛtajīvinī and drops of water infused with mantras.