

sage has gone there already for deluding the residents of the cities.”

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

46. On hearing his words, Nārada, the excellent sage went there quickly where the ascetic expert in magic was stationed.

47. Nārada, an expert in magic, at the bidding of the lord, an expert in the art of illusion, entered the three cities along with the deceptive sage, and got himself initiated.

48. Then Nārada approached the lord of the three cities. After the preliminary enquiries about his health and welfare he spoke to the king.

*Nārada said:—*

49. A certain sage, very virtuous and excellent master of lores has arrived here. He possesses complete knowledge of the Vedic lore.

50. Many cults have been observed by me but none of them is like his. Seeing the eternal virtue in this cult we have got ourselves initiated into it.

51. O great king, O excellent Asuras, if you have any interest in that cult, you shall get yourself initiated into it.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

52. On hearing his words full of significance, the lord of the Asuras was deluded and exclaimed with surprise in his heart.

53. “Since Nārada has been initiated we too shall be initiated.” Resolving thus, the Asura approached the sage.

54. On seeing his features, the Asura was deluded by his magic. After bowing to him he spoke thus.

*The Triṣura ruler said:—*

55. O sage of pure mind, you shall perform my initiation. I shall become your disciple. True. It is undoubtedly true.

56. On hearing the frank words of the ruler of the