

other heroes; the descendants of Koṭivīra, the scions of the family of Kambu. Daurhṛdas, Kālakas, Kālakeyas, Mauryas and Dhaumras—let all these start for the fight.

11. After ordering thus, the lord of the Asuras the valorous son of the ocean set out quickly accompanied by crores of Daityas.

12. Then Śukra and Rāhu with his head severed went ahead of him. In his quick jerky movement, his crown became dislodged and fell on the ground.

13. The sky was entirely enveloped by clouds as in the rainy season. Many ill omens occurred portending great slumber.

14. On seeing his enterprise, the gods including Indra went to Kailāsa, the abode of Śiva without being observed.

15. After going there and seeing Śiva, the gods including Indra, bowed to him with stooping shoulders. They joined their palms in reverence and eulogised.

*The gods said:—*

16. O great lord, lord of the gods, O Śiva the merciful, obeisance be to you. Save us who have sought refuge in you.

17. O lord, we are very much distressed by this harassment. All including Indra are deposed and compelled to stay on the earth.

18. O lord, how is it possible that you do not know this adversity of the gods? Hence in order to protect us please kill him.

19. O lord, Viṣṇu who was assigned by you the task of protection is now unable to protect us.

20. He is also subservient to him and stays in his mansion along with Lakṣmī. All of us gods stay there obeying his behests.

21. O Śiva, we have approached you unobserved by him. That powerful son of the ocean is coming hither to fight with you.

22. O omniscient lord, you shall kill Jalandhara in the battle without delay. Save us who have sought refuge in you.