

CHAPTER FIFTYSEVEN

(Gajāśura is slain)

Sanatkumāra said:—

1. O Vyāsa, listen with great devotion to the story of moon-crested lord, how he killed Gajāśura, the lord of Dānavas, by means of his trident.

2. Formerly when the Asura Mahiṣa³³⁴ was killed in battle by the goddess for the welfare of the gods, they became very happy.

3-4. O great sage, his son the great hero Gajāśura could not forget the slaying of his father by the goddess at the request of the gods and hence remembered that enmity. He therefore went to the forest for undertaking penance. Interestingly he performed penance meditating on Brahmā.

5. "I shall not be killed by men or women overwhelmed by lust." Thinking thus in his mind he directed his attention to austerities.

6. He performed a severe penance in a valley on the Himālaya mountain. He kept his arms lifted. He fixed his eyes at the sky. He stood on the ground on the two big toes.

7. With plenty of matted tresses of hair the benevolent Gajāśura, the son of Mahiṣa shone with his refulgence like the sun at the time of dissolution.

8. The fire in the form of penance originating from his head filled with smoke spread all round to the worlds above, below and on the sides scorching them.

9. The rivers and the seas were agitated by the fire originating from his head. The stars fell along with the planets. The ten quarters blazed.

10. The gods scorched by the fire left heaven and went to Brahma's world along with Indra and submitted to him. The earth quaked.

The gods said:—

11. O Brahmā, we are agitated on being scorched by

334. The Asura Mahiṣa, father of Gaja, was slain in battle by Caṇḍikā. He should be distinguished from the Asura Mahiṣa who was killed by kārṭtikeya.