

moon in the bright half. Learning all lores in childhood he became resplendent.

36. With his childish sports he increased the parents' delight. He became a special favourite of all the members of the family.

CHAPTER TWENTYEIGHT

(The penance and marriage of Śaṅkhacūḍa)

Sanatkumāra said:—

1. As instructed by Jaigīṣavya, Śaṅkhacūḍa performed a penance in Puṣkara for a long time in order to propitiate Brahmā with devotion.

2. He concentrated his mind, controlled the senses and organs of activities, and muttered the mantra of Brahmā imparted by his preceptor.

3. Lord Brahmā, the preceptor of the worlds, went to Śaṅkhacūḍa who was practising penance at Puṣkara in order to grant him the boon soon.

4. Brahmā said to him : "Tell me the boon you wish to choose." On seeing Brahmā, the king of Dānavas bowed to him humbly and eulogised him with words of devotion.

5. He requested Brahmā to grant him the power of being invincible to the gods. With a delighted mind, Brahmā said "Be it so."

6. He gave Śaṅkhacūḍa the divine amulet of Śrīkṛṣṇa the most auspicious of all auspicious things in the universe, that yielded victory everywhere.

7. "You now go to Badari. There you marry Tulasī who is performing penance just at her own will.

8. She is the daughter of Dharmadhvaja." Brahmā instructed him thus and vanished even as he was watching him.

9. Then Śaṅkhacūḍa whose penance had been fruitful in the holy centre of Puṣkara tied the most auspicious amulet round his neck.