

to be cast into hell. In either case righteousness will be lost. This is what we have heard.

37. O sage, thus Vajrāṅga whirled a lot in a dilemma. Intelligently he considered the corresponding strength and weakness of both the alternatives.

38. O sage, as willed by Śiva, though intelligent the king of demons agreed to the proposal. He told his wife "So be it."

39. For that purpose he performed another very difficult penance with great zeal with me as the object of worship, for number of years.

40. On seeing the great penance I went to him for granting the boon. With a delighted mind I told him "speak out the boon you wish to have."

41. On seeing me in the firmament in the pleasant mood he worshipped and eulogised me as well as craved for the boon as desired by his wife.

Vajrāṅga said :—

42. O lord, give me a son who will be carrying out what is beneficent to his mother, who will be strong, valorous and efficient, who will be a storehouse of penance.

Brahmā said :—

43. On hearing his words, O sage, I said "So be it." After granting the boon I returned to my abode thinking on Śiva, though a bit distressed.

CHAPTER FIFTEEN

(The penance and reign of Tārakāsura)

Brahmā said :—

1. Then that Varāṅgī, devoted to him, conceived. The child within her body developed in many years with its brilliance.

2. That Varāṅgī, when the time was complete, delivered of a son of huge body and great strength dazzling the ten quarters.