

the ocean eagerly for the gain of nectar, along with the Asuras.

14. The enemies of the Asuras extracted jewels from the ocean. The gods seized the nectar and drank it deceitfully.

15. Then the gods including Indra increased in strength and prowess by the drinking of the nectar and harassed the Asuras with the assistance of Viṣṇu.

16. This Viṣṇu who is always a partisan of Indra, cut off the head of Rāhu as he was drinking the nectar along with the gods.

Sanatkumāra said:—

17-18. Thus Bhārgava narrated in detail the story of the headless Rāhu, of the churning of the ocean pursued by the gods for the gain of nectar, of the removal of the jewels, of the drinking of the Amṛta by the gods and of the harassment to the Asuras.

19. Then on hearing about the churning of his father, the heroic son of the ocean, the valorous Jalandhara became furious and his eyes turned red with anger.

20. Then he called his excellent emissary Ghasmara and told him everything what the wise preceptor had said to him.

21. He then lovingly honoured the clever emissary in various ways, assured him of protection and sent him to Indra as his messenger.

22. Ghasmara, the intelligent emissary of Jalandhara, hastened to heaven²¹⁰ where all the gods were present.

23. After going there, the emissary entered the assembly of the gods.²¹¹ With his head kept straight as a token of haughtiness he spoke to lord Indra.

Ghasmara said:—

24. Jalandhara, the son of the ocean, is the lord and emperor of all the Asuras. He is excessively heroic and valorous. He has the support and assistance of Bhārgava.

²¹⁰. Triviṣṭapa or Tripiṣṭapa is the city of Indra supposed to be situated on Mount Meru.

²¹¹. Sudharmā is the hall of Indra. It is the unrivalled gem of princely courts. See H. M.