

14. The powerful king of the Asuras, the heroic Tāraka, hit Virabhadra¹⁴⁵ again with spear.

15. Fighting each other thus they hit each other with various weapons and missiles both being equally skilful in the art of warfare.

16. Even as others stood gazing, the two of great energy continued their duel causing hair to stand on ends, with tumultuous noise.

17. Then various military bands and drums like Bheris, Mṛdaṅgas, Paṭahas, Āṇakas and Gomukhas were sounded by the soldiers terrifying those who happened to hear.

18. Both of them were severely wounded by the mutual hits and thrusts but still they continued their fight with added vigour like Mercury and Mars.

19. On seeing the fight between him and Virabhadra, you, the favourite of Śiva went there and said to Virabhadra,

Nārada said:—

20. “O Virabhadra, of great heroism, you are the leader of the Gaṇas. Please desist from this fight. Your killing him does not fit in properly”.

21. On hearing your words, the leader of the Gaṇas Virabhadra became furious but spoke to you with palms joined in reverence.

Virabhadra said:—

22. O excellent sage, of great wisdom, listen to my weighty words. I will kill Tāraka. See my exploit today.

23. The soldiers who bring their masters to the battlefield are sinners. They are no better than eunuchs. They are doomed in the battle.

24. They will go the way of the wicked. Hell is definitely in store for them. Virabhadra should never be considered by you as such a despicable person.

¹⁴⁵. Virabhadra, the chief of the gaṇas of Śiva has become a mythical Being. In the scriptures in the caves of Elephanta and Ellora he is represented with eight hands. According to tradition, he was created by Śiva to destroy Dakṣa's sacrifice, to harry away the Gods and sages who had assembled there. Dawson: H. M.

In the present context he figures as a prominent combatant on the side of the Gods against the Asura chief Tāraka.