

22. The infuriated great Asura fixed an arrow again to his bow and split the arrow of Viṣṇu.

23. Vāsudeva fixed another arrow to his bow for the destruction of the enemy of the gods angrily and roared like a lion.

24. Biting his lips with anger, Jalandhara the powerful king of Asuras split the bow of Viṣṇu with his arrow.

25. The heroic Asura of fierce valour, terrible to the gods, hit Viṣṇu again with very sharp arrows.

26. With his bow split, the lord Viṣṇu, protector of the worlds, hurled his great mace for the destruction of Jalandhara.

27. That mace resembling a blazing flame when hurled by Viṣṇu moved with unerring aim and dashed against his body.

28. Though hit by it, the great haughty Jalandhara did not move even slightly as though he was hit by a flower-garland.

29. Then the infuriated Jalandhara, invincible in war, terrifying to the Asuras hurled a trident, resembling fire, at Viṣṇu.

30. Immediately Viṣṇu remembered the lotus-like feet of Śiva and cut the trident with his sword Nandaka.

31. When the trident was split, the lord of the Asuras leapt and rushed against Viṣṇu and hit him in the chest with his fist.

32. Without minding the pain in the least, the heroic Viṣṇu hit Jalandhara in the chest with his firm fist.

33. Then both of them equally powerful had a hand to hand fight hitting each other with arms, fists and knees. They filled the earth with reverberating sounds.

34. Fighting with the Asura thus, for a long time, O excellent sage, Viṣṇu was surprised. He felt dejected in the heart.

35. Then he the foremost among the magic-wielders assumed a delightful aspect. He addressed the king of Asuras in a thundering voice.

*Viṣṇu said:—*

36. "O excellent Asura, you are blessed. You are