

to keep back. The attendants riding on bulls were sent to the front ranks. Accompanied by his forces and wielding his great trident he felled the devas.

16. The attendants of Śiva hit and thrashed the devas, the Yakṣas, Sādhya, Guhyakas and Cāraṇas with their javelins, spears and tridents.

17. Some were split with swords and smashed with iron-clubs. The devas were hit and smothered with various weapons by the attendants of Śiva.

18. Thus defeated, the devas left one another in lurch and fled to heaven.

19. Only the guardians of the quarters, Indra and others, had the courage and strength to stay behind in that terrible battle with what little enthusiasm they had.

20. Indra and others collectively approached Bṛhaspati in that battlefield and asked him humbly.

*The guardians of the quarters said :—*

21. O dear preceptor Bṛhaspati, intelligent and merciful, please tell us quickly how we can be victorious.

*Brahmā said :—*

22. On hearing their words, Bṛhaspati remembered Śiva and spoke to Indra who was confused and confounded to solve the difficulty.

*Bṛhaspati said :—*

23. O Indra, what Viṣṇu had said before has taken place now. I shall explain it further. Listen attentively.

24. There is the presiding deity of sacrifices who dispenses the fruits of all sacrifices. He does it with reference to the performer. He is not independent of the performer.

25-26. Neither Mantras nor medicinal herbs, nor black magic, nor worldly activities, nor the Vedas, nor the two systems of Mīmāṃsā, nor other sacred texts based on Vedic passages are able to know Śiva—so the ancient authorities say.

27. Lord Śiva is not unknowable entirely. He can be known by devotees who have no other refuge though he