

7. In the end only the bones and the nerves were left. The entire blood was exhausted. When there remained no flesh to offer he desired to offer his whole body into the fire.

8. Then he was seen by the heaven-dwellers, all of whom became frightened and bewildered. Then Brahmā the creator was immediately propitiated and eulogised by the gods.

9. Brahmā stopped him and said—"O Dānava, choose a boon. Whatever is inaccessible in the universe, if you desire it, you can have it."

10. On hearing the words of Brahmā, the Daitya piteously bowed to him and said—"May Prahlāda and others who have cruelly usurped my share in the kingdom be my slaves.

11. I am now blind but let me be endowed with divine vision. Let Indra and others pay me tax and tribute. Let no death come to me from gods, Daityas, Gandharvas, Yakṣas, serpents or human beings.

12. Nor shall I meet with death from Nārāyaṇa, the enemy of leading Daityas, or from the omniscient and omniformed Śiva".

On hearing these words of the demon, Brahmā became suspicious. He told him:—

*Brahmā said:—*

13. "O leader of Daityas, whatever you ask shall take place. But accept some cause of death because none who is born or who will be born can escape the jaws of death.

14. Good men like you should rather avoid too long a life".

On hearing these pleading words from Brahmā, the Daitya said again.

*Andhaka said:—*

15. "The most excellent of the ladies in the world for all time whether of mature, middle or young age shall be like a mother unto me.

16. She may be the rarest in the world, unapproachable to all men, bodily, mentally or verbally. O self-born