

55. Dismissing the gods he installed demons in their places. Some gods he engaged in his personal service.

56. O sage, the gods harassed by him, led by Indra, sought refuge in me. They were helpless and extremely agitated.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

*(Brahmā consoles the gods harassed and frightened
by the demon Tāraka)*

Brahmā said :—

1. The gods terribly tormented by Tāraka, bowed to and eulogised me, the lord of subjects with great devotion.

2. On hearing the eulogy of the gods pleasing and true to facts I was highly pleased and replied to the heaven-dwellers thus.

3. O gods, welcome to you. I hope you are all fulfilling your duties without obstacles. Why have you all come here? Tell me.

4. On hearing my words those gods bowed to me duly and spoke. Being tormented by Tāraka they were in a piteous plight.

The gods said :—

5. O lord of the worlds, thanks to the boon received from you. The demon Tāraka is very haughty. Driving us out with force he has taken possession of our positions.

6. Is it not known to you what misery has befallen us? Please dispel our misery quickly. We seek refuge in you.

7. He torments us wherever we happen to stay by day or at night. Wherever we flee we see Tāraka.

8. O dear, lord of all, we are extremely harassed and agitated due to Tāraka.

9. Agni, Yama, Varuṇa, Nirṛti, Vāyu and other guardians of the deities are under his control.