

us the truth. O meanest of men, of evil conduct, by whom have you been brought here?

31. Repeat piteously "I am vanquished". Eulogise the heroic lord of the Daityas. Join your palms in reverence and bow to him.

32. If you do like this, you may get release. Otherwise this captivity and tortures will continue". On hearing this Aniruddha replied.

*Aniruddha said:—*

33. O friend of the basest of Daityas, O you that sustain yourself with the balls of rice offered in the hands, O demon of evil conduct, you do not know the laws of adversaries.

34. I think that for the valôrous person humble supplications and running away from the battlefield are worse than death. These are adverse and painful to him like a dart.

35. For a Kṣatriya, death while fighting face to face with the enemy is commendable rather than joining the palms in reverence like a man in humble condition professing to be valorous.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

36. These and many other heroic words he uttered, on hearing which Bāṇa was surprised and angry too.

37. Then a celestial voice was heard for the pacification of Bāṇa which all the heroes, Aniruddha and the minister, stood listening to.

*The celestial voice said:—*

38. "O Bāṇa, O great hero, you shall not be angry. "O devotee of Śiva, O intelligent one, you are the son of Bali. Ponder over this.

39. Śiva, the lord of all, the supreme lord, is the witness of all activities. This entire universe including the mobile and immobile beings is subservient to him.

40. He alone is the creator, maintainer and the destroyer of the worlds, always taking up the attributes of