

43. Securing the excellent boon in accordance with his cherished desire, the demon was very glad and went to the town Śoṇita<sup>23</sup>.

44. That great demon was crowned the king of the three worlds with the permission of Śukra, the preceptor of the demons.

45. Then the great demon became the leader of the three worlds. He inaugurated his commanding position by harassing the mobile and immobile beings.

46. He duly established his suzerainty over the three worlds. He protected his subjects but inflicted pain on the gods and others.

47. Then the demon Tāraka seized gems and jewels of all the guardians of the quarters, Indra and others, offered under duress by them on being afraid of him.

48. Afraid of him, Indra surrendered his Airāvata (white elephant) and Kubera all his nine treasures.

49. White horses were surrendered by Varuṇa, the wish-yielding cow Kāmadhenu by the sages, and the sun out of fear for him surrendered his divine horse Uccaiṣravas.

50. Wherever a fine article was espied by the demon, he seized it immediately. The three worlds became void of all valuable things.

51. O sage, the oceans too offered him their gems on account of fear. The entire earth became exuberant in productivity without being tilled and yielded what his subjects desired.

52. The sun glowed gently and mildly as not to make him distressed. The moon was always visible with his brilliant light and the wind blew always favouring him.

53. Whatever riches the gods possessed or the manes or others had, were forfeited by the wicked demon.

54. Bringing the three worlds under his control, he declared Indra himself. He became the undisputed lord and ruled over them with perfect self-control.

23. It was the capital of the Asura territory, later on called Bāṇapura, as it was ruled by the powerful Asura Bāṇa, the devotee of Śiva. According to Dey (G. D. PP. 21, 189) Śoṇitapura is still called by that name, and is situated in Kamaun on the bank of the river Kedāra-Gaṅgā or Mandākinī about 6 miles from Uṣāmaṭha at a short distance from Guptakāśī”.