

12. All the gods Gandharvas and Kinnaras stood as mere onlookers. "Who will win this battle ?" they asked each other.

13. Then a celestial voice rose appeasing the gods—"In this battle Kumāra will kill the Asura Tāraka.

14. None of the gods need be anxious. All shall rest assured. For your welfare Śiva Himself is standing here in the form of His son."

15. On hearing the auspicious words uttered by the celestial voice, Kumāra became happy. He was surrounded by the Pramathas. He resolved to kill Tāraka, the king of Asuras.

16. The infuriated Kumāra of powerful arms used his full strength and hit Asura Tāraka in between his nipples.

17. Slighting that blow, the leading demon Tāraka, hit Kumāra angrily with his spear.

18. At the blow of the spear, the son of Śiva became unconscious. He regained his consciousness in a few minutes. He was eulogised by the great sages.

19. Kumāra became furious like a maddened lion and was desirous of killing the Asura. The powerful Kumāra hit Tāraka with his spear.

20. Thus both Kumāra and Tāraka equally inflamed and equally well versed in the battle of spears fought each other.

21. Both appeared to possess plenty of practice. Both had the desire to gain the upper hand. Both fought on foot, had wonderful forms and features and were equally courageous.

22. With massive heaps of fatal missiles they hit each other. They had various ways of attack. They roared. They exhibited their all exploits.

23. The onlookers, the gods, the Gandharvas and the Kinnaras were much surprised. They did not speak anything there.

24. The wind did not blow. The sun became dim. The earth quaked along with mountains and forests.

25. In the meantime Himālaya and other mountains anxious to see Kumāra out of affection came there.

26. On seeing the mountains extremely terrified,