

20. The sun has been dislodged from his post. Similarly the moon and the fire too have been removed. The Serpent-king has been removed from Pātāla and Dharmarāja has been dispossessed.

21. While men freely move about, the gods do not shine. We have sought refuge in you. Let measures for his annihilation be thought of.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

22. On hearing these piteous entreaties of the gods, Viṣṇu the slayer of Madhu, the ocean of mercy, spoke in a thundering voice.

*Viṣṇu said:—*

23. “O gods, cast off your fear. I shall come to the battle-ground. I shall show my valour to Jalandhara.”

24. Having said this with distressed mind, Viṣṇu the enemy of the Asuras got up quickly. The god Viṣṇu who is favourably disposed to his devotees immediately mounted his vehicle Garuḍa.

25. On seeing her lord departing along with the gods, Lakṣmī, the daughter of the ocean, spoke with palms joined in reverence and tears welling up in the eyes.

26. “O lord, I am your beloved. If I am always devoted to you, O storehouse of mercy, how does my brother’s death be at your hands.

*Viṣṇu said:—*

27-28. Since I have been eulogised by the gods I shall go to the battle ground immediately. I can only show my valour to the Asura Jalandhara. He cannot be slain by me because he is a part of Śiva. Moreover Brahmā has said so. Further, you love him too.”

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

29. Having said this and seating himself on Garuḍa with the conch, discus, mace and the sword held in his hands, Viṣṇu hastened to the fight along with Indra and other gods.

30. Roaring like a lion and accompanied by the gods