

army of the Gaṇas showering arrows like the destructive clouds in the rainy season.

60. The volleys of arrows discharged by the Daityas enveloped all the quarters and the atmosphere like huge swarms of locusts. They shook the hosts of Gaṇas.

61. Split by hundreds of arrows, the Gaṇas shed streams of blood. They resembled the red Kimśuka flowers of the spring season. They did not know what to do.

62. On seeing their army thus shattered, the infuriated leaders Nandin, Gaṇeśa and Kārttikeya hurriedly checked the rushing Daityas.

CHAPTER TWENTYONE

(Description of the Special War)

Sanatkumāra said:—

1. On seeing the leaders of the Gaṇas, Nandin, Gaṇeśa and Kārttikeya, the Dānavas rushed at them for a duel combat.

2. Kālanemi clashed with Nandin; Śumbha fought Gaṇeśa and Niśumbha hesitatingly rushed at Kārttikeya.

3. With five arrows Niśumbha hit the peacock of Kārttikeya in the chest and it fell unconscious.

4. Then the infuriated Kārttikeya discharged five arrows at his chariot and pierced the horses and the charioteer.

5. The invincible hero hit Niśumbha with another sharp arrow quickly and roared.

6. The Asura Niśumbha of great prowess and heroism hit Kārttikeya in the battle with his arrow as he roared.

7. By the time the furious Kārttikeya seized his spear, Niśumbha struck him with it.

8. Thus, O Vyāsa, a great fight between Kārttikeya and Niśumbha ensued as they shouted heroically.

9. Then Nandin hit Kālanemi with seven arrows and pierced his horses, banner, chariot and charioteer.