

52. Among the Gandharvas you are Citraratha; among the Vasus you are certainly the fire; among the months you are the intercalary month; among the holy rites you are the Caturdaśī rite.

53. Among all lordly elephants you are Airāvata<sup>183</sup>; among all Siddhas you are Kapila; among all serpents you are Ananta, among all Pitṛs you are Aryaman.

54-55. You are Kāla (Time) among those who calculate; among Asuras you are Bali. O lord of gods, of what avail is a detailed narration? You preside over the entire universe and remain partially stationed within and partially without.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

56-57. Eulogising thus the bull-bannered, the trident-bearing lord Śiva with various kinds of divine hymns, the gods replied thus relevant to the context. O sage, all of them including Indra and others were very much distressed. They were very shrewd in managing their selfish interests and so mentioned them to Śiva with stooping shoulders and palms joined in reverence.

*The gods said:—*

58. O lord Śiva, the gods including Indra have been defeated by the Asura accompanied by his brothers. O lord, all the gods have been defeated by the sons of Tāraka.

59. The three worlds have been brought under their sway. The excellent sages and the Siddhas have been destroyed. The entire universe has been exterminated by them.

60. The terrible Asuras take the entire share of the sacrificial benefits to themselves. They have initiated evil activities. They have prevented the sages from performing their virtuous rites.

61. Definitely the sons of Tāraka cannot be killed by any living being. Hence, O Śiva, they perform everything as they please.

<sup>183</sup>. Airāvata: He is the elephant produced at the churning of the ocean and appropriated by the God Indra. He is the guardian deity who presides over the east and takes part in the defence and protection of the quarter.