

mere Humkāra, the wife of the king of Daityas was struck with a great wonder in her heart.

17. Freed from the fear she bowed down to the great sage with palms joined in reverence and prostrated herself in front of him. Vṛndā then spoke.

*Vṛndā said:—*

18. “O leader of sages, O ocean of mercy, O remover of harassment from others, I have been saved by you from this terrible danger from the wicked demons.

19. You are competent in every respect. You are omniscient. Yet I wish to submit something. Be pleased to hear it.

20. O lord, Jalandhara my husband has gone to fight Śiva. O holy one of good rites, how does he fare in the war? Please tell me.”

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

21. On hearing her words, the sage feigned a deceptive silence. Fully aware of the means of achieving his selfish ends he looked up sympathetically.

22. In the meantime two lordly monkeys came there and stood bowing down in front of him. At a significant gesture from his eyebrows, the monkeys rose into the sky again.

23. O great sage, within a trice, they came back taking with them his head, body and limbs and stood in front of the sage.

24. On seeing the head, body and limbs of her husband, Vṛndā fell unconscious, extremely pained at the misery of her lord.

*Vṛndā said:—*

25. “O lord, formerly you used to humour me with pleasant chats. How is it that you do not speak to me now, to your pious beloved?

26. How is it that you, by whom all the gods including the Gandharvas and Viṣṇu had been defeated, you who had conquered the three worlds, have now been killed by a poor sage?