

Asvattha is the peepul or the holy fig tree. It yields no edible fruit and nothing in this tree is in any way useful to man. Still it has ever been associated with the worship of the Divine. Any thought of this tree brings in its train ideas and ideals all connected with God. It is, for this reason, recognized as *His vibhūti*.

The spiritually enlightened ones are called the Rishis. Not only from among men, but also from among the Devas. Rishis have sprung up. Among *the Deva Rishis the sage Narada is the foremost*. He constantly sings the glory of God. In addition to this he is famous for setting up strifes and quarrels which end as blessings in disguise. Contact with Narada amounts to contact with God Himself. He is therefore the glory of God.

The Gandharvas are celestials with several good and useful traits. They are invoked to safeguard the intoxicating Soma juice associated with some forms of *Yajnas*. They are expert physicians and musicians. They are given to excessive lust and are for this reason invoked in wedlocks. The gamblers seek the aid of the Gandharvas, who are inordinately fond of this art. The Vedas set to tune are expounded by these celestials. At times they play the role of the preceptors to the Rishis, in this respect. Chitraratha being the king of these heavenly beings, it is proper that the Lord claims him as a divine attribute of His.

They are called Siddhas who are endowed from birth onwards with righteousness, wisdom, dispass-