

52 O sage, both Viṣṇu and the Asura, equally powerful, hit each other in the battle with unabated strength.

CHAPTER NINE

(The boasting of Tāraka and the fight between him and Indra,
Viṣṇu, Virabhadra)

Brahmā said :—

1. O Guha, O lord of gods, O son of Śiva and Pārvatī, the fight between Viṣṇu and Tāraka is not proper. It is futile.

2. Tāraka the powerful cannot be killed by Viṣṇu. He has been granted such a boon by me. It is truth. I am telling you the truth.

3. O son of Pārvatī, none except you can be the slayer of this sinner. O great lord, my words shall be carried out by you.

4. O scorcher of enemies, please get ready to slay him. O son of Pārvatī you are born of Śiva for killing that demon.

5. O great hero, save the gods distressed in the battle. You are neither a boy nor a youth but the lord of all.

6. See Indra and Viṣṇu. They are agitated and distressed, So also the gods and the Gaṇas. Slay this great demon. Make the three worlds happy.

7. Formerly Indra and the guardians of the quarters had been conquered by him. Due to the power of his penance, the heroic Viṣṇu too has been threatened by him.

8. The entire universe of the three worlds has been defeated by this wicked Asura. Now, because of your presence, they have fought again.

9. Hence, O son of Śiva, this sinful being Tāraka shall be killed by you. Due to the boon granted by me he cannot be slain by any one else."

Brahmā said:—

10. On hearing these words of mine, Kumāra, son of Śiva, was delighted and he laughed. "So be it", said he.