

tle. The heroic leader of the Asuras, Tāraka, was still in his unabated fury.

39. Then the Asura showered arrows on the gods and put them to distress. He was skilful in the use of various missiles in the war.

40. After causing a great havoc, Tāraka, the protector of Asuras, the most excellent among the brave, seemed invincible to the gods.

41. On seeing the gods terrified and slaughtered, Viṣṇu became furious and got ready to fight.

42. Taking discus Sudarśana, the bow Śārṅga and other weapons with him, lord Viṣṇu rushed to meet the great Asura in the battle.

43. O sage, a great fight ensued between Viṣṇu and Tāraka. It was very fierce. It caused horripilation to the onlookers.

44. Lifting up his club, Viṣṇu hit the Asura with great force but the powerful Asura split it with his trident.

45. The infuriated lord offering shelter to the gods hit the leader of the Asuras by arrows discharged from his bow.

46. The heroic Asura Tāraka, the slayer of enemies, immediately split the arrows of the gods by his own sharp arrows.

47. The Asura Tāraka then quickly hit Viṣṇu¹⁴⁶ with his spear. On being hit thus, Viṣṇu fell unconscious on the ground.

48. In a trice, Viṣṇu got up and in rage seized his discus that was blazing with flames and he roared like a lion.

49. Viṣṇu hit the king of Asuras with it. Overwhelmed by the forceful hit he fell on the ground.

50. Getting up again, the foremost among Asuras and their leader, Tāraka using all his strength immediately split the discus with his spear.

51. Again he struck Viṣṇu the favourite of the gods with that great spear. The heroic Viṣṇu hit him back with Nandaka.

146. Murāri: 'The enemy of Mura'. It is an appellation of Viṣṇu who slew the Asura Mura. The latter was an ally of the Asura Naraka who ruled over Prāgjyotiṣa (modern Assam).