

CHAPTER FIFTYONE

(The story of Ūṣā)

Vyāsa said:—

1-2. O omniscient Sanatkumāra, a wonderfully excellent story has been narrated with love and blessings by you. It is full of Śiva's benediction. I wish to know more of the story of the moon-crested lord wherein he gave the Asura Bāṇa the position of the chieftain of his Gaṇas.

Sanatkumāra said:—

3. O Vyāsa, listen with reverence to the story of Śiva, the great Ātman wherein it is explained how he bestowed the chieftainship of his Gaṇas on the Asura Bāṇa.

4. Here is the good story of Śiva, the great lord. Here too is the story of Śiva's fight with Kṛṣṇa when the former blessed Bāṇa.

5. Listen from me the most befitting and the highly meritorious legend of the sports of Śiva. It is pleasing to the mind and to the ears.

6. Marīci, the sage of great intellect, was the mentally created eldest son of Brahmā. He was a Prajāpati too.

7. His son Kaśyapa was a noble soul. He was the most excellent of all sages. He made the creation flourish well. He was devoted to his father and to Brahmā.

8. O Vyāsa, thirteen daughters of Dakṣa were his wives. They were of good conduct and very faithful to their husband, the sage Kaśyapa.

9. The eldest of the wives was Diti. The Daityas were her sons. The gods and others including the mobile and immobile beings were born to others.

10. The eldest Diti had the heroic sons Hiranyakaśipu the elder and Hiranyākṣa the younger.

11. Hiranyakaśipu had four sons. They were in order Hrāda, Anuhrāda, Samhrāda and Prahlaḍa.

12. Prahlaḍa was a great devotee of Viṣṇu. He had full control of his sense-organs. The Daityas were unable to destroy him.

13. His son Virocana was the most excellent of