

4. There was great tumult on the side of the Gaṇas and the gods. All the gods and the Gaṇas roared and rejoiced.

5. On seeing Kālī, Śaṅkhacūḍa hastened to the battle ground. The Dānavas were frightened but the king Śaṅkhacūḍa assured them of protection.

6. Kālī hurled fire as fierce as the flame of dissolution which the king put out sportively by means of Vaiṣṇava missiles.

7. Immediately the goddess hurled the Nārāyaṇa missile at him. The missile developed its power on seeing the Dānava Śaṅkhacūḍa.

8. On realising it as fierce as the flame of fire of dissolution, the Dānava Śaṅkhacūḍa fell flat on the ground and bowed again and again.

9. On seeing the Dānava humbled the missile turned away. Then the goddess hurled the Brahmā missile with due invocation through the mantra.<sup>278</sup>

10. On seeing the missile blazing he bowed and fell on the ground. The leader of the Dānavas thus prevented the Brahmā missile from attacking him.

11. Then the infuriated leader of the Dānavas drew the bow violently and discharged divine missiles at the goddess with due invocation through the mantras.

12. Opening the mouth very wide she swallowed the missiles and roared with a boisterous laugh. The Dānavas were terrified.

13. He then hurled a Śakti, a hundred Yojanas long at Kālī. By means of divine missiles she broke it into a hundred pieces.

14. He hurled the Vaiṣṇava missile on Kālī. She blocked it with the Māheśvara missile.

15. Thus the mutual combat went on for a long time. All the gods and Dānavas stood as mere onlookers.

16. Then the infuriated goddess Kālī, as fierce as the god of death on the battleground, took up angrily the Pāśupata arrow sanctified by mantras.

<sup>278</sup>. The reference to the missiles of unfailing effect discharged with the magic formulae indicates the heights that military science had attained in that age.