

7. He got up in the Brāhma Muhūrta,²⁶⁰ and finished his daily routine in the morning. He then performed the offering of charitable gifts.

8-9. He crowned his son as the lord of Dānavas. He entrusted his wife, his kingdom and his riches to the care of his son. When his wife cried and dissuaded him from going to the war he consoled her by various words of appeasement.

10. He called his general and ordered him to be ready for the war.

Śaṅkhacūḍa said:—

11. O general, let the heroic warriors start for the war. Let them be ready for action; they have been trained well for the war.

12. Let the heroic Dānavas and Daityas, the armies of the powerful Kaṅkas of eightysix divisions well-equipped in arms set out fearlessly.

13. Let the fifty families of Asuras, having the heroism and prowess of a crore set out to fight with Śiva, the partisan of the gods.

14. At my bidding, let the hundred armed families of Dhaumras speedily set out to fight with Śiva.

15. At my behest, let the Kālakeyas Mauryas, Dauhṛdas and the Kālakas set out ready for the fight with Śiva.

Sanatkumāra said:—

16. After ordering thus, the powerful lord of Asuras and the Emperor of the Dānavas set out surrounded by thousands of warriors and great armies.

17. His general was an expert in the science and technique of warfare. He was the best of charioteers a great hero and skilled in warfare.

18. He had three hundred thousand Akṣauhiṇī²⁶¹ armies. He performed the rites of auspicious beginning and came out of the camp. He was terrible to the watching heroes.

260. See Note 191 P. 218.

261. A single Akṣauhiṇī consists of 21, 870 elephants, 21870 chariots, 65610 horses and 109, 350 foot.