

10. None of them is ever independent. All serve him in the manner of human beings accompanied by their followers.

11. Being harassed by him, the gods have become subservient of him. They are engaged in carrying out his wishes. All of us are his servants.

12. Our woman folk, the groups of heavenly nymphs have been captured by Tāraka, the powerful.

13. No sacrifice is in the making. No ascetic is in penances. The charitable and virtuous activities are being seldom pursued in the worlds.

14. His commander-in-chief is a simple demon-Krauñca. He has now gone to the nether worlds and is harassing the people very much.

15. The regions of our three worlds have been forcibly taken, O Brahmā, by this Tāraka of sinful and ruthless temperament.

16. O lord of the worlds, we were in heaven but now that we have been turned out by that demon we shall go to any place which you may kindly suggest.

17. You are our final resort. You are our ruler, creator, and protector. But we are scorched in the fire of the name Tāraka. We are extremely agitated.

18. Our ruthless activities against him have turned out to be weak and ineffective, even as medicinal herbs of great potency are rendered ineffective in an ailment brought about by the combination of all deranged humours.

19. We had some hope of victory in Sudarśana the discus of Viṣṇu. But even that discus has become ineffective in his neck where it has fallen as though it were a floral offering to a deity.

*Brahmā said :—*

20. O sage, on hearing these words of the gods, I told them befitting the occasion.

21. "O gods, the demon Tāraka has flourished, thanks to my words of blessings. His destruction through me does not seem proper.

22. Improper is the destruction through that source wherefrom he has flourished. Even a poisonous tree tended and