

other gods became encouraged and they returned to their respective abodes.

24. In order to grant the boon, Viṣṇu went to Puṣkara where Dambha was performing penance.

25. On reaching there Viṣṇu consoled Dambha who was repeating his name and told him the pleasing words—“Mention the boon you wish to be granted.”

26. On hearing his words and seeing Viṣṇu standing in front, the Dānava bowed with great devotion and eulogised him again and again.

*Dambha said:—*

27. “O lord of gods, Obeisance be to you, O Lotus-eyed one, O lord of Lakṣmī, O lord of the three worlds, please take pity on me.

28. Please give me a powerful and valorous son who will be your devotee, who will be invincible to the gods and who will conquer the three worlds.”

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

29. On being thus requested by the lord of Dānavas, Viṣṇu granted him the boon. O sage, making him desist from the penance he vanished from the place.

30. When Viṣṇu went away, the lord of Dānavas performed obeisance to that direction and returned home, his penance having been fulfilled and his desires realised.

31. Within a short time, his fortunate wife became pregnant. Illuminating the inner apartments of her abode by her brilliance she shone much.

32. O sage, it was Sudāmā a cowherd, one of the leading comrades of Kṛṣṇa who had been cursed by Rādhā, that entered her womb.

33. At the proper time the chaste lady gave birth to a brilliant son. The father invited sages and performed the post-natal rites.

34. O excellent brahmin, when the boy was born there was great jubilation. On an auspicious day the father named him “Śaṅkha-cūḍa.”

35. In the abode of his father he grew up like the