

the gods and the sages, the Mlecchas<sup>188</sup> shall be killed by you for the protection of the good.

43. As it is the duty of a king, you will not be sinning by their destruction. Hence, the good people, brahmins etc shall be saved and the thorns uprooted.

44. Even an ordinary king would do so if he cares to maintain his sway. You have the suzerainty of all the worlds. Hence, tarry not to protect us.

45. Great sages, Indra, sacrifices, Vedas, all the Śāstras, Viṣṇu and even I—all these depend on you, O lord of gods.

46. O lord, you are the emperor of all deities, the lord of all. Viṣṇu and the entire universe constitute your retinue.

47. Viṣṇu is your heir-apparent, O unborn one, I, Brahmā, am your priest and Śukra who carries out your behests is the Royal officer.

48. The other gods too, O lord, are subjects to your control. They continue to perform their own duties. True. It is undoubtedly true.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

49. On hearing the words of Brahmā, Śiva, the delighted lord of the gods replied to Brahmā.

*Śiva said:—*

50. O Brahmā, if I am to be proclaimed the emperor of the gods, I do not have the paraphernalia characteristic of my lordship.

51. I do not have a divine chariot and a divine charioteer. I do not possess bows and arrows which accord victory in a battle.

52. If there had been a chariot I could have sat in it and with bow and arrows I could have killed even powerful Asuras, with a resolute determination.

*Sanatakumāra said:—*

53. On hearing these words of the lord, the gods

<sup>188</sup>. Mlecchas are represented as violent, carnivorous, torturous, non-Aryan wild tribes who caused terror in the social life of the country.