

Sanatkumāra said:—

23. After saying this, the gods including Indra bowed to him and stood humbly glancing at the feet of lord Śiva.

24. On hearing the words of the gods the bull-bannered deity laughed. He called Viṣṇu immediately and spoke these words.

The lord Śiva said:—

25. O great Viṣṇu, the distressed gods harassed by Jalandhara have sought refuge in me.

26. O Viṣṇu, how is it that Jalandhara was not killed in battle by you? Leaving off your own Vaikuṇṭha you have gone to his mansion?

27. As I wanted to be free and sportful, I had appointed you for the protection of the good and the curbing of the wicked.

Sanatkumāra said:—

28. On hearing the words of lord Śiva, Viṣṇu replied humbly bowing down with palms joined in reverence.

Viṣṇu said:—

29. He was not killed in war by me because he was born of a part of yours. Moreover he is Lakṣmī's brother. Please kill him.

30. O lord of the gods, he is very powerful, heroic and indefatigable by all the heaven-dwellers and others too. I am telling you the truth.

31. In fact a war was fought with him by me in the company of the gods. But my strategy was ineffective in regard to this great Dānava.

32. I told him "I am delighted with your valour. Tell me the boon you wish to have". On hearing these words of mine he chose an excellent boon.

33. "O great Viṣṇu please stay in my mansion subservient to me along with my sister,²²⁸ the gods and myself." So I went to his mansion.

²²⁸. Lakṣmī, produced at the churning of the ocean, became the daughter of the ocean. Thus she could be the sister of Jalandhara who was the son of the ocean.