

stopped the battle. The infuriated Bāṇa then spoke to the very powerful son of the charioteer.

*The Asura Bāṇa said:—*

21. O son of the charioteer, cut off the head of this wicked fellow who has defiled my family.

22. After chopping off the limbs, give them to the Rākṣasas. Or let the beasts of prey swallow his flesh and blood.

23. Or kill this sinner and put him in a grassy well. O son of the charioteer, what more shall I say? By all means he must be slain.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

24. On hearing his words, the Asura Kumbhāṇḍa, the most excellent of the ministers and righteous in thought, spoke to Bāṇa.

*Kumbhāṇḍa said:—*

25. O lord, this is not a proper thing to do. Please consider. I think by killing him we will be killing ourselves.

26. O lord, he seems to be equal to Viṣṇu in exploits. His strength has been increased by the brilliance of the moon-crested lord, your favourite.

27. Moreover, in daring he is equal to the moon-crested lord; though he is reduced to this plight he maintains his manliness.

28. It is by the grace of Śiva that he, the grandson of Kṛṣṇa, considers us insignificant as the blades of grass. Although he is bitten by serpents cruelly he is still very strong.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

29. After saying thus to Bāṇa, the Dānava, the most excellent among statesmen, spoke to Aniruddha.

*Kumbhāṇḍa said:—*

30. "O hero, who are you? Whose son are you? Tell