

lent sage went to the assembly chamber of Jalandhara to see the favourite Asura.

20. On seeing the excellent sage, the king Jalandhara stood up and offered him a splendid seat with great devotion.

21. After worshipping him duly the surprised king of the Asuras laughed loudly and spoke to the excellent sage.

*Jalandhara said:—*

22. O brahmin, whence do you come from? What did you see here? O sage, what is the aim of your present visit here?

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

23. On hearing these words of king Jalandhara the delighted great sage Nārada replied to him.

*Nārada said:—*

24. O Jalandhara of great intellect, O lord of Dānavas and Daityas, O lord of all the worlds, you are blessed. You alone are the enjoyer of all jewels.

25. O excellent king of Daityas, listen to the purpose for which I have come here. I shall explain it to you.

26. O lord of Daityas, I had been to the summit of Kailāsa casually. It is ten thousand Yojanas wide. It has a grove of Kalpa trees.

27. Hundreds of Kāmadhenus are found there. It is illuminated by Cintāmaṇi gems. It abounds in gold. It is divine and wonderfully brilliant.

28. There I saw Śiva seated along with Pārvatī. He is fair-complexioned and exquisitely handsome. He has three eyes and the moon for his crest.

29. On seeing this wonderfully great thing, a doubt arose in my mind. Can there be anywhere in the three worlds such a splendour as this?"

30. O lord of Daityas then the idea of your prosperity struck into my mind. Now I have come to you to see it personally.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

31. On hearing these words of Nārada the lord of