

CHAPTER FORTY

(Śaṅkhacūḍa is slain)

Sanatkumāra said:—

1. On seeing the important and major portion of his army killed, including heroes as dear to him as his life, the Dānava became very furious.

2. He spoke to Śiva. ‘I am here standing ready. Be steady in the battle. What is it to me, if these are killed? Fight me standing face to face’.

3. O sage, after saying this and resolving resolutely the king of Dānavas stood ready facing Śiva.

4. The Dānava hurled divine missiles at him and showered arrows like the cloud pouring rain.

5. He exhibited various kinds of deceptive measures invisible and inscrutable to all the excellent gods and Gaṇas and terrifying as well.

6. On seeing that, Śiva sportively discharged thereat the excessively divine Māheśvara missiles that destroy all illusions.

7. All the illusions, were quelled rapidly by its brilliance. Though they were divine missiles they became divested of their brilliance.

8. Then in the battle, the powerful lord Śiva suddenly seized his trident which could not be withstood even by brilliant persons, in order to slay him.

9. In order to prevent him then, an unembodied celestial voice said—‘O Śiva, do not hurl the trident now. Please listen to this request.

10. O Śiva, by all means, you are competent to destroy the entire universe in a trice. What doubt then in regard to a single Dānava Śaṅkhacūḍa ?

11. Still, the limit imposed by the Vedas should not be disregarded by you, the lord. O great god, listen to that. Make it truthful and fruitful.

12-13. O lord Śiva, it has been mentioned by Brahmā, that, as long as he wears the armour of Viṣṇu and as long as his wife maintains the marital fidelity, Śaṅkhacūḍa has neither death nor old age. Please make those words truthful.’