

29. Within a Muhūrta, O sage, the goat walked round the universe and without exhaustion returned to the same place.

30. Then the lord got down and resumed his seat. The goat stood there itself. Then the brahmin Nārada told the lord.

Nārada said :—

31. Obeisance to you, O lord of gods, O storehouse of mercy, give the goat to me. Let me perform the sacrifice with pleasure. Please assist me as my friend.

Kārttikeya said :—

32. O brahmin Nārada, this goat does not deserve to be killed. Return home. May your sacrifice be complete. It has been so ordained by my favour.

Brahmā said :—

33. On hearing the words of the lord, the brahmin was delighted. He returned home after bestowing his excellent blessings.

CHAPTER SEVEN

(Commencement of the War)

Brahmā said :—

1. On seeing that miraculous feat of Kumāra, Viṣṇu and other gods became delighted. They were convinced of his prowess.

2. Keeping Kumāra at the head, shouting and roaring, purified by Śiva's splendour they started to attack Tāraka.

3. When he heard about the preparation of the gods, the powerful Tāraka rushed to fight back the gods with a great army.

4. On seeing the great army of Tāraka approaching, the gods were surprised but roared like lions.