

10-11. When the battle began between Śiva and Andhaka, the leaders who had formed their armies in the unpiercing arrays of thunderbolt and the mountain, the powerful Daityas became victorious at first but O sage, by the power of Śiva, the Pramathas became victorious afterwards.

12. On hearing that the Asura Andhaka was dejected. He began to think "How can I be victorious?"

13. Going away from the battle ground the heroic and intelligent Andhaka went immediately to Śukra, unattended by anyone else.

14. Getting down from his chariot, he bowed to his preceptor. He was foremost among the politicians, pondered well and spoke with palms joined in reverence.

Andhaka said:—

15. O holy lord, after resorting to you we feel the respect due to a preceptor towards you. We are never vanquished. We are always victorious.

16. Due to our power we consider all the gods and their followers including Śiva and Viṣṇu as insignificant as the useless blades of grass.

17. Due to your blessings, the gods are afraid of us as the elephants of the lions and the serpents of Garuḍas.

18. By smashing the entire host of the Pramathas, by your grace, the Daityas and the Dānavas have entered the impenetrable thunderbolt Vyūha.

19. O Bhārgava, by seeking refuge in you we roam about unhesitatingly in the battle ground, like the cows grazing in the field fearlessly.

20. But now the Asuras are harassed by the heroic enemy. They are killed. Save, save us O, Brahmin, who have sought refuge in you.

21. See Huṇḍa and others, leading lieutenants of mine who have been slain or who have fallen. They have been attacked by Pramathas of terrible valour who can destroy even death.

22. Formerly you did a great penance drinking the smoke of husks or eating bits of grain³⁰³ for a thousand years

303. Kanadhūma is a kind of penance wherein the performer sustains himself on the grains of corn or balls of iron-ash (lohagulika).