

*Rāhu said:—*

34. “O great lord, O lord of the gods, save me who have sought refuge in you. You are always worthy of being worshipped by the gods and Asuras. You are the lord endowed with all riches and accomplishments.

35. O great lord, your terrible servant has come here to swallow me, a brahmin.

36. O lord of gods, favourably disposed to your devotees, save me lest he should devour me. Obeisance be to you again and again.”

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

37. O sage, on hearing the words of the brahmin, the great lord, favourite of the distressed and helpless, spoke to his Gaṇa.

*The great lord said:—*

38. “Leave off this brahmin Rāhu, the emissary who has sought refuge. O excellent Gaṇa, those who seek shelter shall be protected, not punished.”

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

39. Commanded thus by the lord of Pārvatī, of sympathetic temperament, the Gaṇa set Rāhu free, immediately on hearing the word brahmin.

40. After leaving off Rāhu, the gaṇa came near Śiva and pleaded to the great lord in piteous words.

*The gaṇa said:—*

41. O great lord, O lord of the gods, O Śiva the merciful, O deity favourable to the devotees, my prey has been taken away.

42. O lord, I am tormented by hunger. So I am utterly emaciated. O lord of the gods, what shall be eaten by me? Please command me, O lord.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

43. On hearing these words of the being, the great lord of wonderful sports, eager to help his own persons, replied.