

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

(*The battle of the gods*)

Sanatkumāra said:—

1. On seeing the Asura coming again, the gods including Indra trembled with fear. They fled together.

2. With Brahmā at the head they went to Vaikuṇṭha. All of them including Prajāpati eulogised Viṣṇu after bowing down to him.

The gods said:—

3. O Hṛṣīkeśa of long arms, O lord, O slayer of Madhu, O lord of gods, Obeisance to you, O destroyer of all Asuras.

4. O Viṣṇu, of the form of fish²¹⁶ who redeemed the Vedas through king Satyavrata, obeisance to you who sport about in the ocean of Dissolution.

5. Obeisance to you of the form of Tortoise who bore the mountain Mandara of the gods who were attempting to churn the ocean.

6. Obeisance to you O holy lord, of the form of Boar. Obeisance to you who hold the earth, the support of people. Obeisance to Viṣṇu.

7. Obeisance to you, the Dwarf. Obeisance to Viṣṇu the younger brother of Indra, the lord who deceived the king of Asuras in the guise of a Brahmin.

8. Obeisance to Paraśurāma who exterminated the Kṣattriyas, who rendered help to your mother. Obeisance to you who are angry and inimical to the evil beings.

9. Obeisance to Rāma who delighted the worlds and who set the limits of decent behaviour. Obeisance to you the destroyer of Rāvaṇa and the lord of Sītā.

10. Obeisance to you of hidden knowledge; to Kṛṣṇa the great Ātman; the sportive paramour of Rādhā; Obeisance to him of diverse divine sports.

²¹⁶. The god's eulogy to Viṣṇu enumerates the various forms of Viṣṇu including his nine incarnations, viz. Matsya, Kūrma, Vārāha, Vāmana, Paraśurāma, Rāma, Kṛṣṇa, Buddha and Kalki. But it is not intelligible why it shall omit his Nṛsiṃha incarnation. Most probably some lines seem to be missing here.