

## CHAPTER FOUR

*(The Tripuras are initiated)*

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

1. For causing obstacles in their virtuous activities, Viṣṇu of great brilliance, created a Puruṣa<sup>184</sup> born of himself.

2. He had a shaven head, wore dirty clothes, held a woven wicker vessel in his hand and a roll of cotton in his hand which he shook at every step.

3. His hands tucking at the cloth were weak. His face was pale and weak. In a faltering voice he was muttering “Dharma, Dharma.”

4. He bowed to Viṣṇu and stood in front of him. He spoke to Viṣṇu with hands joined in reverence.

5. “O laudable, revered one, please tell me what my names are and what my place shall be.”

6. On hearing these auspicious words, Lord Viṣṇu became delighted and spoke these words.

*Viṣṇu said:—*

7. O intelligent one, born of me, you are certainly identical with me in form. Know why you have been created. I shall tell you.

8. You are born of me. You can perform my task. You are my own. Certainly you will be worthy of worship always.

9. Let your name be Arihat. You will have other auspicious names too. I shall assign to you a place after-

<sup>184</sup>. According to the present context Viṣṇu created a delusive teacher called Māyāmoha who created a Māyāśāstra of sixteen lakhs of śloka in Apabhraṁśa, preaching Jina Dharma for misguiding the Asuras. Māyāmoha created four sorts of preachers for the propagation of Jina Dharma. He preached non-violence, forbade Śrauta and Smārta rituals, discarded Varṇāśrama system, created an order for women that resulted in leaving their home and leading the life of nuns. In some versions, the role is assigned to Bṛhaspati, the preceptor of the Gods who in the guise of their preceptor Śukra deludes the Asuras. For details, see Māyāmohaprakaraṇa in Padma, Viṣṇu, Liṅga, Matsya etc.