

Seating himself in a stable pose he performed the Japa of Kṛṣṇa mantra for a long time.

13. While he was performing the penance, an unbearable refulgence sprang up blazing from his head and spread everywhere.

14. All the gods, sages and Manus were scorched by that. With Indra ahead they sought refuge in Brahmā.

15. Bowing to Brahmā, the bestower of riches, they eulogised him and narrated to him this event.

16. On hearing that, Brahmā accompanied them to Vaikuṇṭha in order to tell the same to Viṣṇu in its entirety.

17. After going there they stood humbly joining their palms in reverence. After bowing to him they eulogised Viṣṇu the lord of the three worlds, the great saviour.

*The gods said:—*

18. “O lord of gods we do not know how this happened to cause this. Please tell us. By what refulgence have all of us been scorched ?

19. O friend of the distressed, you are the protector of the distressed and dispirited servants. Save, O lord of Lakṣmī who are worthy of being sought refuge by us.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

20. On hearing these words of Brahmā and other gods, Viṣṇu who is favourably disposed to those who seek refuge, said laughingly and lovingly.

*Viṣṇu said:—*

21. “O gods, be calm and unperturbed, do not be afraid. No deluge will take place, this is not the time of dissolution.

22. The Asura Dambha a devotee of mine is performing a penance seeking for a son. I shall bestow a boon and quieten him.”

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

23. O sage, on being consoled thus, Brahmā and