

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

8. O sage, thus when they heard these words Indra and other gods immediately intimated this to Brahmā in the first instance.

9. Then, with Brahmā at their head, the gods including Indra quickly went to Vaikuṇṭha in all glory.

10. On going there and seeing Viṣṇu, the gods bowed to him in agitation, and with their palms joined in reverence they eulogised him with great devotion.

11. They intimated to Viṣṇu the powerful, the reasons for their misery, the earlier ones as well as the later.

12. On hearing the distress of the gods as well as the vows observed by the Tripuras, Viṣṇu spoke as follows.

*Viṣṇu said:—*

13. This is true that where the eternal virtue reigns supreme, no misery raises its head like darkness when the sun is seen.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

14. On hearing these words the gods became miserable and dejected. They spoke to Viṣṇu with their lotus-like faces depressed.

*The gods said:—*

15. How are we to go about our activities. How can our misery be dispelled? How can we be happy? How are we to remain firm?

16. As long as the Tripuras are alive, how can we observe virtuous activities? All the residents of the three cities give troubles to us.

17. What else can we say to you? Either the annihilation of the Tripuras shall be made or the untimely destruction of the gods shall be proceeded with.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

18. After saying this and lamenting frequently, the gods were in a fix and could neither stay nor leave the proximity of Viṣṇu.

19-21. On seeing them in that plight, distressed and