

MONGERING AND WORLDLY INTELLECT OF HIS
WARRIOR-FRIEND, ARJUNA;

26. *Among all trees (I am) the ASHWATTHA -tree; among Divine RISHIS , Narada ; among GANDHARVAS , Chitraratha ; among Perfected ones , the MUNI Kapila .*

OF ALL THE TREES I AM THE ASHWATTHA-TREE --- Both in its magnitude and life-span, the *Ashwattha* tree (*Pipal*) can be considered as the "all-pervading" and the "Immortal," inasmuch as it lives generally for centuries. The Hindu has learnt to worship it, and there is a sentiment of divinity attached to it. It is also a fact that the *Ashwattha* brings up in our mind fresh memories of the *Upanishadic* comparison of it with *samsara*. Later, in the Geeta itself (XV-I) we have a mention of the *peepal* tree as representing the pluralistic phenomenal world that has shot up to spread itself like mushrooms of false sorrows over what is dreamy nothingness.

OF THE *DEVARISHIS* I AM NARADA --- Of the heavenly Seers, Krishna describes Himself as Narada, a favourite figure in our legends. In our *Puranas*, Narada is described as a great devotee of *Hari*; he is not only a great Seer among the celestials, but he often comes down to the world to play the deliberate fool and ultimately guide the deluded mortals to the parlour of heaven. Perhaps Krishna, himself being a great missionary, entertains a great respect for Narada, because of his missionary zeal