

Devas resort to the Mount Meru of mythological fame, the senses and *prāṇa* in the human tabernacle are all adhering to the spinal cord. The Lord therefore speaks of it as His special manifestation.

पुरोधसां च मुख्यं मां विद्धि पार्थ बृहस्पतिम् ।

सेनानीनामहं स्कन्दः सरसामस्मि सागरः ॥ २४

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सेना-नीनाम् अहम् स्कन्दः सरसाम् अस्मि-मि सागरः ॥

*purodhasām ca mukhyaṁ mām viddhi pārthabrhaspatim ;
senānīnām ahaṁ skandāḥ sarasām asmi sāgaraḥ ॥*

पुरोधसाम् *purodhasām* among the household priests च *ca* and मुख्यम् *mukhyaṁ* the chief माम् *mām* me विद्धि *viddhi* know पार्थ *pārtha* O Partha बृहस्पतिम् *brhaspatim* Brihaspati सेनानीनाम् *senānīnām* among generals अहम् *ahaṁ* I स्कन्दः *skandāḥ* Skanda सरसाम् *sarasām* among lakes अस्मि *asmi* (I) am सागरः *sāgaraḥ* the ocean

Of priests, O Partha, know Me to be the chief, Brihaspati; of generals I am Skanda and of bodies of water I am the ocean. 24

The function of the priest is to administer ritualistic worship and a sanctified code of conduct among people. Brihaspati discharges this sacred duty among the Devas and so he is a deity of great eminence. Seekers of learning and wisdom pay homage to Brihaspati. It is but proper to behold him as endowed with the attributes of Iswara.

Godhead can be reached only through right understanding and right execution. These two divine qualities are personified as Ganesa and Skanda, the sons of Siva. His second son, Skanda is the