

*The gods said:—*

9. O excellent sage, listen to our misery. O merciful one, after listening to it, destroy it quickly. You are powerful and the favourite of Śiva.

10. The gods have been routed by the Asura Jalandhara from their abodes and positions of controlling authority. Hence we are miserable and distressed.

11. The hot-rayed sun and the moon have been ousted from their positions. The fire-god and the god of death and guardians of the quarters have been expelled.

12. The gods have been harassed by that powerful Asura. We who have been subjected to great grief now seek refuge in you.

13. The great Asura Jalandhara who has suppressed the gods and who is very powerful has made Viṣṇu subservient to him in the battle.

14. Becoming subservient because of helplessness occasioned by the boon granted to him, Viṣṇu who carried out our tasks has now begun to stay in his palace along with Laksmī.

15. O intelligent one, please exert yourself for the destruction of Jalandhara. You have fortunately come to us and you have always been the person who can achieve everything for us.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

16. On hearing these words of the gods, the great sage Nārada, the merciful, consoled them and said.

*Nārada said:—*

17. O gods, I know that you have been defeated by the king of Asuras, that you are miserable and harassed and have been deposed.

18. There is no doubt in this that I shall carry out your task according to my ability. O gods, since you are in misery I shall be favourable to you."

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

19. After saying so and consoling the gods, the excel-