

invincible in war. Since you are a great lord you are not at all afraid of even great weapons.

37. Many Asuras have been killed by these very same weapons in great battles. The wicked and haughty people have been pierced through their bodies and killed.

38. O great Asura, I am delighted by this fight with you. You are really great. A hero like you has not been seen in the three worlds including the mobile and immobile beings.

39. O lord of Asuras, choose a boon. I am pleased at your valour. I shall give you anything even that which cannot be given, whatever is in your mind.

Sanatkumāra said:—

40. On hearing these words of Viṣṇu, skilled in magic, the intelligent king of the Asuras replied thus.

Jalandhara said:—

41. O Brother-in-law, if you are pleased give me this boon. You stay in my house with all your followers, my sister and myself.

Sanatkumāra said:—

42. On hearing these words of the great Asura, lord Viṣṇu, the lord of gods, said distressingly—"So be it."

43. Then Viṣṇu came to the city called Jalandhara²²¹ along with his followers, the gods and lakṣmī.

44. Then the Asura Jalandhara returned to his abode and stayed very delightedly in the company of his sister and Viṣṇu.

45. Thereafter Jalandhara appointed Asuras in the authoritative posts of the gods. Joyously he returned to the Earth.

46. The son of the ocean confiscated whatever gem or jewel the gods, Gandharvas or Siddhas had hoarded.

47. After appointing the powerful Asura, Niśumbha,

²²¹. The town of the Daitya Jalandhara can be identified with that of the same name in the East Punjab. It was the capital of Jālandhara Deśa in the Uttarāpatha. For details see the Kumārikākhaṇḍa of Skandapurāṇa.