

abode. The Dānava accepted her by means of the Gāndharva rite.

41. After marrying her he went to his father's place. In the beautiful apartment he sported with her.

CHAPTER TWENTYNINE

(*The previous birth of Śaṅkhacūḍa*)

Sanatkumāra said:—

1. When Śaṅkhacūḍa returned home duly married, after performing the penance and receiving the boons, Dānavas and others rejoiced.

2. Leaving their world and accompanied by their preceptor, the Asuras assembled and approached the Dānava.

3. They bowed to that resplendent Dānava their lord, humbly and eulogised him with love and respect. They stayed with him alone.

4. On seeing the family preceptor, Śaṅkhacūḍa, son of Dambha bowed to him with devotion and prostrated before him with respect.

5. After conferring his excellent benediction, Śukra, the family preceptor, narrated the tales of the gods and Dānavas.

6. He expatiated on the natural enmity of the two, the invariable defeat of the Asuras, the victory of the gods and the help rendered by Bṛhaspati.

7. With the consent of the Asuras, the preceptor Śukra made him the emperor of Dānavas, Asuras and others with jubilant festivities.

8. The delighted Asuras were highly joyous. They offered him presents lovingly.

9. The son of Dambha, the heroic and valorous Śaṅkhacūḍa shone as the Emperor of Asuras.

10. Taking a vast army of Daityas, Dānavas and Rākṣasas and seated in his chariot, he marched quickly to the city of Indra²⁴⁴ with the intention to conquer it.

11. The leader of the Dānavas going in the midst of

²⁴⁴. The capital city of Indra's dominions, also called Amarāvati, is situated in the vicinity of Mount Meru. It is also called Devapura, city of the gods.