

rites. After bowing they conveyed to him the behest of the Daitya.

*The ministers said:—*

48. “Andhaka the noble soul, son of Hiraṇyākṣa, the king of Daityas, the emperor of the three worlds, is camping here now at the instance of Brahmā and is sportively inclined.

49. O great sage, we are his ministers possessed of great prowess. We have come to you at his behest. Listen with attention to what he says.

50. Whose son are you ? O great sage, O intelligent one, why are you stationed here in a carefree manner ? Whose wife is this young beautiful lady ? O great sage, this auspicious lady be given to the lord of Daityas.

51. Where this body of yours smeared with ashes, bedecked with necklaces of skulls and hideous in appearance ! Why do you keep the quiver, the bow, the arrows, the sword, the missile Bhuśuṇḍi, the trident, the thunderbolt and the iron club ?

52. Where this sacred Gaṅgā, this crescent moon, the matted hair, these pieces of bones from the corpse, the serpent with poisonous breath and protruding mouth, and where the close embrace of the lady of plump bosom !

53. Riding on a bull is despicable. No man on earth has seen such a thing. Bowing and kneeling is a virtue in some places. Why is this diet contrary to the way of the world ?

54. Surrender your wife unto me peacefully. O foolish fellow, why do you perform your penance in the company of a lady ? It is improper and it does not behove you. I am the lord of jewels in the three worlds (It may suit me).

55. Leave off your weapons, at my behest and carry on your penance. If my order is transgressed you will have to pay dearly with this very body”.

56. Lord Śiva following the worldly convention considered Andhaka a leader of wicked men. On hearing the words of the emissaries he spoke smilingly.