

62. Let some policy be laid down for the protection of the universe lest the terrible Asuras, the denizens of the three cities, should destroy the world.

Sanatkumāra said:—

63. On hearing these words of Indra and other heaven-dwellers who were expatiating on their distress, Śiva spoke in return.

CHAPTER THREE

(The virtues of the Tripuras)

Śiva said:—

1. A meritorious person is the presiding ruler of the Tripuras now. He who practises meritorious deeds should not be killed by sensible persons.

2. O gods, I know the misery of the gods completely. It is great. Those Asuras are very strong. They cannot be killed by the gods or demons.

3. The sons of Tāraka and Maya are equally meritorious. O sensible ones, they are invincible to all the citizens.

4. How can I knowingly commit malicious deeds to my friends though I am hardy and powerful in battles? Even Brahmā has said that there is a great sin attending on even casual malicious actions.

5. There are ways of atonement and amends for a brahmin slayer, a wine addict, a thief or a person who violates sacred rites. But there is no expiation for ungrateful men.

6. Those Asuras are my devotees. O Gods, how can they be slain by us? Let this aspect be thought over by you who know what is virtue. You must consider this virtuously.

7. They should not be slain as long as they continue their devotion to me. Yet, this reason may very well be intimated to Viṣṇu.