

SREE MAHAABHAARATHAM

AADHI PARVVAM

16. SarppaadhyUthpaththi (16. The Birth of all Serpents or Snakes)

The story of Aastheekan (Continuation.) Kadhru and Vinatha, both daughters of Dheksha Prajaapathi, married Kasyapa Muni or Prajaapathi. From him Kadhru produced the serpents and Vinatha produced two sons called Aruna or Arunan and Garuda or Garudan or Geruda or Gerudan.

Oh, Southe or Soothaa! You please explain the most sacred and virtuous story of Aastheekan as we all wish to listen to his story in detail. You will be very pleased to tell that portion of the story. 1

You are telling the stories in such an attractive and meaningful way. It is exactly the same style as your father used to tell the stories. It is very attractive and heartening. 2

Your father always had a special interest in serving and treating us in a very humble way. You also please tell us the stories regardfully as your father used to tell us the stories. 3

Soothan Said:

Oh, Saunaka Maharshe! I shall narrate the story of Aastheekan as I heard it from my father, Lomaharshana, with diligence and utmost interest. 4

Oh, Vibho or One who is blessed for Longevity! In the past, in the Kritha or Sathya [this is the first of the four Yugams called 1) Kritha, 2) Thretha, 3) Dhvaapara, and 4) Kali Yugams] Yugam, there were two daughters of Dheksha Prajaapathi, [called Kadhru and Vinatha]. Both were equally at the top in beauty and charm. 5

Kasyapa Muni who was resembling as a Prajaapathi in a much higher level with his austerity and penance married both Kadhru and Vinatha, both

beautiful young ladies. He was very pleased with them and gave them boons as a beloved husband. 6

As Kasyapa was very pleased with his wives' treatment, chastity, and service and as a gesture of thanks offered them boons. Having heard that the husband had offered Varam or boon, both of them were so happy and pleased. Kadhru accepted thousands of Naagaas or serpents as her children as the boon from Kasyapan. 7-8

Vinatha requested or accepted the boon for two sons who would be superior in strength, energy, might, prowess, and in size than all the thousands of children of her sister Kadhru. 9

When her husband thus gave her two sons with divine powers, Vinatha was so humble and noble as her husband gave her the boon she wished. She was very pleased and happy as she attained two mighty and powerful sons as she wished to have. She was very gratified and happy. 10-11

Kadhru was also fully satisfied, fulfilled, and rejoiced with the attainment of thousand splendid children or sons. Kasyapa instructed both of them to protect the embryo with all effort and left for Thapovanam or the forest where he can undertake penance. After a long while Kadhru delivered one thousand eggs. Similarly, Vinatha delivered two eggs. Their respective servants kept in hot pots and took care of the eggs for five hundred years. Oh, yes! After five hundred years the eggs of Kadhru got hatched. 12-15

Even after that the two eggs of Vinatha did not hatch and the children did not come out. Was Dhevi or the divine lady very anxious why her eggs have not hatched, and she was very disturbed in the absence of children for her? Due to extreme anxiety Vintha broke one of the eggs and saw a very splendid glowing son. Half of his body was fully developed and the other half undeveloped or half-developed. So, the half-developed portion was not visible. It is told that that child became angry and cursed his mother: "to become a slave for breaking the egg as she did the work of a servant. [See, breaking the egg was the job of a servant and not that of the mistress.] He explained to her that it was because of her impatient and greedy eagerness to get a son she made him a half-developed child. 16-

Kadhru is very competitive with and jealous of you. Oh, Mother! You have to serve her, or you have to be her servant for five hundred years. 19

Thereafter, your son, who will be hatched after five hundred years, will release you from the curse. Make sure that you do not break open this egg as impatiently as you did it for me and make him like half-developed or under-developed. Please wait patiently for his due date or due time. You have to wait for another five hundred years more for his full development of strength, might, prowess, splendor, brilliance, etc." After cursing like that the son of Vinatha rose up in the sky. 20-22

Oh, Brahman or Saunaka Brahmarshe! He is Aruna or Arunan who we see every day in the morning. He is living as the charioteer of Soorya Bhagawaan. 23

Garuda, the destroyer of Pannagaas or Serpents, was born as told after five hundred more years. As soon as he was born or hatched, he left Vinatha, his mother, and rose up in the sky. 24

Garuda, the lord and king of birds, flew up alone in search of the food assigned to him by Brahmadheva or the Great Ordainer of all and to get it.

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So ends this section.