

SREE MAHAABHAARATHAM

AADHI PARVVAM

20. Sauparnnam - KadhruSaapam (20. About Suparnnan or Garudan - Curse of Kadhru)

Soothan continues the story of Uchchaisrevas, the heavenly crystal white horse. Once Kadhru and her sister and co-wife had a great argument and took a bet between them about the color of Uchchaisrevas. Kadhru asked her children, the serpents to go stick in the tail of the horse so that its tail will be black. The serpents who did not agree and obey Kadhru were cursed by her. Due to the curse of Kadhru innumerable serpents were killed in the Sarppa Sathram. Brahmadheva pacified and consoled Kasyapan about the sacrifice of serpents.

Soothan Said:

Thus, I narrated the story of AmrithaMatthanam or Churning of Milky-Ocean for Amritham or Nectar. During this Amritha Matthanam only the most auspicious and opulent pure white divine horse of Uchchaisrevas was produced or appeared and obtained by Dhevendhra. 1

Hearing about that horse, Uchchaisrevas, Kadhru addressed her sister Vinatha: "Oh, the most amiable and auspicious One [Vinatha] tell me immediately what color of that horse is." 2

Vinatha Said:

Oh, the smartest One, Kadhru, that horse is pure pearl white in color. What is your opinion? You also tell the color of that horse. And after that, we can bet. [Very natural. If Kadhru also agrees that it is white, then there is no need for an ant bet.] 3

Kadhru Said:

Oh, the One with a very charming and beautiful, sweet smile, Vinatha! In my opinion the tail of that horse is black in color. Let us have a bet that One

who loses will become the slave of the other. If you agree, we can have the bet now. 4

Soothan Said:

They both thus agreed for the slavery bet. And with the determination that they both will go the next day and check it, they went home. 5

With the intention of cheating Kadhru commanded her thousand serpent sons: "You transform yourselves into black hair and enter inside the tail of the horse, Uchchaisrevas, and cover the tail and save me from becoming the slave." She cursed her serpent sons those who did not listen and comply with her. 6-7

Kadhru Said:

When Jenamejaya, the great soul and wisest king of Paandava race, conducts the Sarppa Sathram or Snake-Sacrifice you all will be burned in that sacrificial fire. 8

Soothan Said:

As destined by God the cruelest curse uttered by the angry Kadhru was heard by Pithaamahan or Brahmadhevan. (Kasyapan told Brahmadhevan about the curse.) 9

And seeing that the number of snakes exceedingly higher for the welfare of his creations including that of the serpents, with the agreement of other Dhevaas, Brahmadheva agreed or favorably considered for the destruction of serpents - in Sarppa Sathram -. 10

As the snakes were of deadly virulent poison, great prowess and excess of strength, and ever biting and killing other creatures, and as demanded by the nature for the co-existence and welfare of other creatures, all the Dhevaas also sanctioned the curse of Kadhru. 11

The Dhevaas said: "Oh, Mother - Kadhru! What you did is right. These serpents became killers and disturbers of other creatures. They, the serpents, were committing injustice to other creatures. For such sinners God himself would give punishment. So, this curse is prompted by God."

Thus, saying Brahmadhevan complemented and respected her stand.
12-13

The lotus-eyed Brahmadheva called Kasyapa and pacified him by saying:
14

Brahmadhevan Said:

Hey, Unnee Kasyapa, my dear Son! You should not be worried and should not have any sorrow that the Dhendhasookams or serpents with deadliest and most virulent poison born from you have been cursed by their mother like this. It was predestined earlier itself of the serpent dynasty at the Sarppa Sathram or Snake-Sacrifice. 14-15

Soothan Said:

Thus, saying Brahmadheva pacified and pleased Kasyapa Prajaapathi and also imparted Visha Samhaara Vidhya or the knowledge to neutralize and cure the effect of snake-biting. 16

So ends this section.