

SREE MAHAABHAARATHAM

AADHI PARVVAM

29. Sauparnnam - GejaKachcchapa Dhersanam (29. About Suparnnan or Garuda - Seeing or Sight of Elephant and Tortoise)

Along with the Nishaadhaas One Braahmana was also swallowed by Garuda. Remembering the words of his mother that a Braahmana should never be harmed even by mistake, he brought the Braahmana out and liberated him. And that Kasyapa Braahmanan appeared to him and advised him to get rid of his hunger by eating the huge elephant and the tortoise living in the near river. Garuda seized the elephant and the tortoise by its claws and started flying up in the sky to locate an appropriate place to eat them. On the way a huge Banyan tree asked Garuda to sit on its branch eat them, the elephant and the tortoise, happily. As Garuda sat, the branch broke and fell down.

Soothan Said:

Ho! A Braahmana along with his wife also went inside the throat of Garuda. As he Garuda got his throat burned he spoke to that Braahmanan: 1

Garuda Said:

Oh, Dhvijan or Braahmanan! Please come out from my opened mouth. A Braahmana, even if he is a sinner, will not be killed or harmed by me. 2

Soothan Said:

When Garuda spoke to him like that, the Braahmanan spoke: "My wife is a Nishaadhi or a female Nishaadha and therefore you should also release that Nishaadhi and should come along with me." 3

Garuda Said:

Please jump out along with the Nishaadhi immediately. Please protect yourself, who was not burned-out with my splendor, with your own effulgence. 4

Soothan Said:

That Braahmanan immediately jumped out from his throat along with his Nishaadhini - female Nishaadha - wife and blessed Gerudan and went freely on his way with his wife. 5

After that Braahmanan along with his wife escaped from the mouth of Gerudan like that, he spread out his wings and flew up in the sky as fast as the mind could travel. 6

Flying like that, Gerudan saw his father Kasyapa Maharshi. Having been asked by his father, Gerudan told all the truth about his trip. The great Sage Kasyapan advised Gerudan appropriately and legitimately. 7

Kasyapan Said:

Oh, my dear son - Geruda -! Are you not doing well? Do you have sufficient and plenty of food every day? On the earth, where human beings inhabit, do you get plenty of food? 8

Gerudan Said:

Oh, My dear Thaatha or Father! My mother is doing well. My brother is also well and so am I. But as I am not getting plenty of or sufficient food always, I do not have complete peace of mind and comfort. 9

The Naagaas have sent me to fetch Amrith in order to release mother from slavery. I will steal Amritham and bring. 10

My mother has advised and consented to me eat the group of Nishaadhaas. And as commanded by my mother I ate innumerable Nishaadhaas, and I am not yet fully satisfied and contented. 11

Therefore, oh, Bhagawan or Lord! Please provide me with more food to get rid of my hunger so that I can gain sufficient strength to steal Amrith from heaven. 12

Oh, Bhawaan or Lord! Please give sufficient food to quench my thirst and remove my hunger. 13

Kasyapan Said:

This lake you see is most sacred and holy. It is so famous as it is heard and well-known even in heaven. 13

There is an elephant, with face downwards, who is continuously dragging the tortoise, who is his elder brother. They have developed hostility and enmity from the previous birth. Please listen. I will narrate the story in detail. 14

And also, I will tell you about their exceedingly large bodies and its measures. There was an old Rishi known by the name Vibhavasu. He was very short-tempered and exceedingly wrathful. 15

His, Vibhavasu's, younger brother was Supretheekan with severe austerity and penance. He was against keeping the wealth jointly or in other words not willing to maintain their property jointly with his elder brother and wanted to get and keep his share of property separately. 16

Every time when there was an opportunity Supretheekan used to talk about sharing the property with his elder brother, Vibhavasu. Then, at one time Vibhavasu, the elder brother, spoke to Supretheekan. 17

Daily we will be thinking of sharing the wealth and property. But once it is shared or partitioned, they will start fighting due to greed. It is certain. 18

When you partition and assume the ownership of your wealth and property due to your selfishness, those who act as friends and relatives would make us fight each other. 19

And thus, when we start fighting for each other for ownership, they will take advantage by acting as mediators. And a portion or full share would lose for mediation and for victory. 20

Therefore, partition of property between brothers is never being complimented by good people because they violate virtuous principles

disrespecting rules and norms set up by or preceptors and thus
disrespecting preceptors. 21

Hey, Supretheeka! As you are so greedy for getting your share of wealth
and insisting on partitioning our wealth and property, you will become a
devilish elephant. 22

When Supretheekan was cursed like that, he cursed Vibhavasu, his elder
brother: "You will be an aquatic tortoise living under water." 23

As being cursed by each other due to the foolish greed of possessing
wealth and keeping under their own control, Vibhavasu and Supretheekan
lived in the form of tortoise and elephant respectively. 24

Because of their wrath and anger produced from greed they both became
such inferior animals. And they are engaged in hostilities with each other,
proud of their superiority. 25

Approaching there saw the gigantic elephant, who is very handsome and
roaring with thunder-like sound. Also, there lived a huge tortoise within this
water coming out agitating the lake violently. 26

Hearing the thunderous sound of the terrifyingly gigantic elephant, the
tortoise, with gigantic form, living within the deep waters of the lake will rise
up agitating the entire water of the lake violently. 27

Seeing the tortoise, the brave and valorous elephant will jump into the
water curling his trunk and whirling and blowing his tusk, tail, feet and all
rushed into water agitating the lake vehemently. 28

When the lake was getting agitated horribly like that with the boundless
anger of the elephant, the huge and strong tortoise raising his head above
water would rush to fight with that elephant. 29

The elephant is as tall as six Yojana or about $6 \times 9 = 54$ miles and as long
as the length of two rivers or approximately two thousand miles. And the
tortoise is ten Yojana, or $10 \times 9 = 90$ miles surface area and the height is
three Yojana or $3 \times 9 = 27$ miles. 30

They, the elephant and the tortoise, got engaged in fighting with such a rage with firm determination and with all preparation to kill each other. Eating both of them satisfies and fulfills your hunger and thus completes your task successfully. 31

Eating that huge tortoise resembling a mass of dark cloud and the elephant resembling a huge mountain you can fully satisfy your hunger and easily accomplish the task of stealing Amrith. Go and do it. 32

Soothan Said:

Kasyapa, The Maamuni or Great Sage, blessed for victory and auspiciousness and spoke to Gerudan: "In the challenge with Amaraas or Dhevaas you will be victorious." 33

"Oh, the Oviparous or the hatched from egg - Gerudan! Oh, Dhvija or Braahmana - Geruda! Let the water pitchers or pots be filled up to the brim, the Vipraas or Braahmanaas, the Gos or Cows, and other auspicious objects bless you." 34

"When you are entering the battlefield to fight against the Dhevaas, all the Vedhaas like Rik, Yejus, Saama, and Attharva; all primary paraphernalia and deities of Yaagaas and Yejnjaas; and all the secret principles of Vedhaas; and all such divine things will be your strength, or they will provide necessary strength for you." Thus, being spoken and blessed by father, Gerudan went to the nearby Saras or the lake. 35-36

Gerudan saw the expanse of clear and pure water with many different birds all around. Remembering the words of his father, Geruda the ranger of skies who possessed heavy storm-like swiftness seized the elephant and the tortoise, one in each in his mighty claw. Gerudan, the best of all the kings of all birds, then flew high up and up in the sky with unimaginable high speed. 37-38

Then, he came to a sacred place called Alambam filled with a lot of divine trees. Those divine trees started shaking with fear being stuck by stormy wind generated by the wings of Gerudan. 39

Those divine trees with golden boughs or branches feared that they would certainly break. Geruda seeing that those divine trees are capable of

granting all wishes were quaking with fear, he went around searching for other trees of incomparable strength and majestic appearance. There he saw many trees with fruits of silver, gold, and with branches of gems and also innumerable huge fruitless trees surrounded by huge sea waves. One of the huge banyan trees among them spoke to Geruda, who was approaching at high speed. 40-43

Banyan Tree Said:

You, please sit on my branch extending for more than Nooru Yojana or One Hundred Yojana (or $100 \times 9 = 900$ miles) and eat the elephant and the tortoise as you wish. Gerudan with the body resembling a huge mountain alighted on that huge banyan tree with innumerable branches which were a resort for thousands of birds with large wings. After sitting on one of the large branches of that banyan tree Geruda, the king of the birds, spread out his wings and broke that branch. 43-44

So ends this section.