

SREE MAHAABHAARATHAM

AADHI PARVVAM

31. Sauparnnam - Gerudante PakshiRaajathvam (31. About Suparnnan or Garuda - Attainment of Kingship of Birds by Garuda or Coronation of Garuda as The King of Birds)

As a result of Indhran discarding and contemptuously disregarding Baalakhillyaas, they cursed him. They performed a Yaagam for the birth of another Indhran or to lose the position of this Indhra. Knowing this Indhran approached Kasyapan and sought his protection. Kasyapan pacified and consoled Indhran and Baalakhillyaas. In order to fulfill the words or curse of Baalakhillyaas, Kasyapa provides Garuda the position of Indhran among birds.

Saunakan Said:

Oh, Soothaja or Son of Sootha! What was the fault of Indhran? How did the penance of Baalakhillyaas become the cause of birth of Garuda or how Garuda was born as a consequence of the penance of Baalakhillyaas?

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How did this bird Garuda become the son of Kasyapa Maharshi? And how he, Garuda, became unconquerable, undefeatable, and unsayable by any creatures? 2

How that ranger of the sky, Garuda, became capable of going anywhere at his own wish and will and also how he was able to acquire any amount of energy, power, and prowess at his own will? 3

Soothan Said:

Oh, Dhvijoththama or The Best and Highest of all Braahmanaas! These questions of yours are truly mythological or a subject of mythology. I will try to answer in brief. Please listen. 4

When Kasyapa Maharshi, who is the lord and father of all creations of the universe, was conducting a Yaagam and making all offerings to fulfill his

desire of offspring; the Rishees, Genddharvvaas, and all Vibuddhaas or Dhevaas helped him to fulfill and satisfy his desire. 5

Kasyapa asked Indhran, other Dhevaas, and Baalakhillyaas to bring sufficient sacrificial logs or sacrificial fuel. 6

The mountain sized Indhran with his power, strength, and energy brought sufficient sacrificial fuel without any difficulty. 7

On the way Indhran, carrying a huge bundle of fuel logs, saw the great Rishees or ascetics with bodies measuring the size of a thumb. 8

Those ascetics were Baalakhillyaas and all of them together were carrying a single stalk of Palaasa Leaves and they were for want of food very lean and almost merged in their bodies. They were struggling to cross even water collected in an indentation or the shallow hole on the road produced by the hoof of a cow. 9

Indhran, so proud of his strength and prowess ridiculed those great ascetics by laughing at them in derision and on the top of that insulted them by passing over their heads. 10

Those Rishees with great austere power gained from long severe penance were angry and filled with rage and sorrow. They started a great sacrifice at which Indhran was terrified. 11

Hey, Saunaka! Please listen for accomplishment of what wish was those great and excellent vow-observing ascetics poured ghee or clarified butter into the sacrificial fire by reciting Vedhic Manthraas aloud. 12

They wished to have another Indhran who is capable to acquire any amount of energy, valor, and strength at his wish and also who can go anywhere as he wishes and who can challenge and defeat the present Indhran and a terrifier for him. 13

Their wish was: "Let there be One who is hundred times more powerful and stronger than the Soman or Indhran and who can move as fast as the mind." And their wish was fulfilled. 14

Hearing the attainment of such a boon by Baalakhillyaas, Indhran was terribly frightened and approached Kasyapan of great austere power and sought refuge and protection. 15

Having heard from Indhran, Kasyapa Prajaapathi went to Baalakhillyaas and asked about attainment of positive result for their austere penance. 16

The truth speaking Baalakhillyaas responded to Kasyapa Prejaapathi positively by answering, yes, we got our wish fulfilled. 17

Kasyapa Prejaapathi Said:

Oh, the Best and Noblest Maharshees! Brahmadheva has decided and appointed Indhran as the Lord of Muppaaru or all the three worlds. Your effort is to nullify his decision. 18

Oh, the most respectable Maharshees! The performance of Yaagam and Thapas by you would never be result less or unfulfilled but do not try to falsify the determination of Brahma. 19

Please have mercy and compassion towards Dhevendhra and let that strong and valorous sky ranger be the Lord of winged creatures or birds and thus your effort as well as Brahma's word will not become futile. 20

Soothan Said:

When Kasyapan game Baalakhillya Maharshees offered reverence and received him and duly answered his questions immediately: 21

Baalakhillyaas Said:

Oh, Kasyapa Prajaapathe! Yes, we are all performing this sacrifice for an Indhran. Are you also not performing Yaagam for a strong and valorous son? 22

Therefore, please accept this task by you so that what you wish as well as what we wish would be fulfilled. And thus, the result would be auspicious for us as well as for you. 23

Soothan Said:

And this was the time the purest and most auspicious lady Vinatha Dhevi, the daughter of Dheksha, was desirous of having a son. 24

Vinatha performing austere penance and observing strict vows for the sake of having a son approached her husband, Kasyapa. Kasyapa commanded as follows: 25

"Oh, Dhevi! Your wish or desire would certainly be fulfilled and two heroic and brave sons who will be Lords of the universe will be born to you as a result of the austere penance of Baalakhillyaas as well as by virtue of the desire with which I have commenced my sacrifice. These two will become Lords of all winged creatures and also they will be respected and Worshipable in all the worlds." [Both Arunan and Garudan are worshiped in all the three worlds.] 26-27

And Kasyapan also advised her, Vinatha, that: "You please bear these divine seeds or sperm with great care and without any ostentation. They will be the supreme Lords and the ultimate Rulers of all birds or winged creatures. They will be Indhraas of birds. These Dhvija Sreshttaas or Braahmana Sreshttaas [They are the sons of Kasyapa Braahmanan] heroic rangers of the skies would be capable of assuming any form at their own will and wish." 28-29

Being so gratified and pleased with all that happened and going to happen Kasyapa Prajaapathi spoke to Indhran: "You will have two brothers [Indhra is the son of Kasyapa Prajaapathi and hence his sons would be Indhraa's brothers.] These heroic, powerful, energetic, and mighty brothers of you would be extremely helpful and supportive to you. From them there will be no injury or harm will result for you or cause for you. Remove and abandon your unhappiness and sorrows. You are the Lord of Dhevaas, and you will remain so. That is for certain. However, you should never ridicule or insult and or despise Braahmanaas like this ever again. The words of Braahmanaas are sharper and more harmful than the Vajra or thunderbolt. Their words can destroy you like anything. Be careful always." 30-32

As Kasyapa Prajaapathi spoke like that and pacified Indhran, he was dispelled of his sorrows and fear and became confident of not losing his p[osition as the Lord of Dhevaas or Dhevendhran and went back to his

heavenly abode. Vinatha also became extremely pleased and satisfied with having her desire fulfilled. 33

Thus, Vinatha begot two sons, Aruna or Arunan and Garuda or Garudan or Gerudan. Arunan was defective as his body was not fully developed. [The story is that Vinatha was impatient to not hatching the egg even after carrying it for five hundred years and broke it open and that is why he was not fully developed.] As soon as he was born, he went to Sooryan and assumed the position as his Charioteer. 34

Garudan became PakshiRaajan or was vested with the Lordship of birds. Oh, Bhrigu Nandhana or Saunaka! Please listen to his mighty achievements and accomplishments. 35

So ends this section.