

SREE MAHAABHAARATHAM

AADHI PARVVAM

18. AmrithaMatthanam (18. Churning For Amrith or Celestial Ambrosia)

Dhevaas and Asuraas join together and performed the churning of Paalaazhi or Milky Ocean. Many invaluable and precious substances like Kausthubham, Kaamaddhenu, Paarijaatham, etc. rose up and started appearing from the ocean. And finally, the Amritham or the Celestial Ambrosia also appeared. The pot of Amrith was stolen or taken by the Asuraas and went. Sree Mahaa Vishnu Bhagawaan took the form of enticing Mohini and retrieved it from the Asuraas.

Soothan Said:

There is a MandharaAchalam, or a Mountain called Mandhara with many peaks looking like a heap of clouds. It is best of all mountains and covered all over with innumerable intertwining vines of herbs. 1

The mountain is always filled with the melodious sound of countless birds and with many beasts of prey with horrible looking large canine teeth roam about. The Celestial Kinnaraas, Apsaraas, Vrindhaarakaas, etc. were always playing around in this mountain. 2

It rose upwards for Eleven Thousand Yojanaas [1 Yojana is equal to about 9 miles] and also to downwards the same from earth. 3

As they were unable move and lift the mountain from there the Dhevaas approached where Brahmadheva and Vishnu Bhagawaan were there and humbly announced or said to them: 4

Dhevanmaar Paranju (Dhevaas Said):

Please show us the right path or kindly devise some smart means and advise us for our benefit. We need your help in lifting and bringing the Mandhara Parvvatham or mountain. 5

Soothan Said:

Vishnu Bhagawaan agreeing positively that they, Vishnu Bhagawaan and Brahmadheva, will help them, He started working with Brahmadheva. And Brahmadheva and Vishnu Bhagawaan commanded Anantha Bhagawaan to devise proper planning and scheme. 6

Hey, Bhoosuroththama or Saunaka! In accordance with the order of Brahmadheva and Vishnu Bhagawaan, The very majestic Anantha Bhagawaan who was mighty and powerful enough, by himself alone, uprooted and lifted that magnificent Mandhara Parvvatham along with all the trees and plants in it. 7-8

Along with Anantha Bhagawaan, holding Mandhara Parvvatham, and Dhevaas also accompanying him reached Paalaazhi or Milky Ocean. And then the Dhevaas said: "Now we are going to churn the ocean for Amrith." 9

Having heard what was told by Dhevaas, the Paalaazhi or the Milky Ocean told them that he will bear the whirling moves of the heavy majestic mountain, but a share should be given to it. 10

Then the Dhevaas and Asuraas together requested Koormma Raajan or the king of Tortoise: "Oh, Bhagawan Koormma Raajan or Godly Tortoise-King! Please hold the Mandhara Parvvatham or Mandhara Mountain on your back." 11

Aadhi Koormma or the First Tortoise, [which is KoormmaAvathaaram of Incarnation of Vishnu Bhagawaan as Tortoise,] agreed and held Mandhara Parvvatham in its back. And the Mandhara Parvvatham which was held or supported by Koormmam was churned or turned like a machine by Indhra. 12

Thus, Dhevaas and Asuraas, using Mandhara Parvvatham as the churning staff and the serpent Vaasuki [how the Mandhara Parvvatham and Vaasuki were brought by Garuda and Mahaadheva Siva will be mentioned later] as churning chord, churned the Milky Ocean with so many deep pits. 13

Hey, Dhvija or Saunaka! As consented and agreed by Sree Mahaa Vishnu Bhagawaan, the Raakshasaas or Asuraas held the head portion of Vaasuki

and Dhevaas the tail portion. Both Dhevaas and Asuraas churning the Ocean with arduous enthusiasm and effort. At that time Vaasuki started shaking his hood heavily up and down. In consequence of the Asuraas stretching the head and Dhevaas the tail in order to hold the mountain tightly while churning vaporous flames emitted out from the mouth of Vaasuki. These turned to clouds charged with lightning. And it rained at the side of fatigued Dhevaas, and it was refreshing to them. And the flowers falling from the mountain, while it was being churned, made rain of flowers on both Suraas and Asuraas. That also refreshed them with refreshing fragrance. 14-19

Ho, Brahman! When the aquatic animals in the ocean got crushed by churning of the heavy mountain, they all cried out aloud and those roars were like roars of the clouds at the time of final disillusion. 20

Many denizens of Paathaalam or the lower regions like water ghosts also got crushed and dissolved in the salt waters of the ocean. And also, many creatures living in the world of Varuna or Sea-god also had the same fate as they were hit and crushed by whirling mountain of sky-high peaks, Mandhara Parvvatham. 21-22

Because of the whirling of the mountain the trees and the plants started moving to all sides and even the tallest branches touching on the ground. The flying birds started falling down on the ground and many trees were uprooted and fell into the waters. Blazing fire flames were produced as the branches of the trees started creating fire because of the friction of the branches by the trembling. That blazing fire spread all over within no time due to heavy storms just like in the speed of lightning flashes. And in that fire, all remaining trees and animals like elephants, lions, etc. burned to ashes and spread over the ground. The mountain looked like a mass of dark clouds charged with lightning. 23-24

That fire which burned here and there and the flames rising up in the sky burned everything. Seeing the high blazing flames of terrifying fire, Dhevendhra showered torrential rain and put out the fire. When the trees broke as it fell down innumerable herbal trees oozed out its herbal juice and during the rain all those juices flowing down into the ocean containing Amrith or nectar. 25-26

Those herbal juices were also as powerful and effective as Amritham flow into the ocean. The water and the golden herbal juice together formed the most powerful Amritham or Nectar. Thus, the water of the ocean then became pure milk. And then with the mix of innumerable other things like the roots, leaves, juices, etc. and with churning it produced butter. Then, the Dhevaas went and spoke to Brahmadheva. 27-29

Dhevaas Said:

Oh, Brahmadheva! We have churned the ocean for a long time but still we have not seen Amrith yet and we are all so tired. Other than Aadhi Naaraayanan or Sree Mahaa Vishnu Bhagawaan all other Dhevaas and Asuraas were churning the Ocean for a very long time. And a very long time has already passed. 30-31

Soothan Said:

Brahmadhevan requested Sree Mahaa Vishnu Bhagawaan: "Oh, Vishnu Bhagawan! Please grant enough power and strength for them to churn the ocean without any delay. 31-32

Vishnu Bhagawaan Said:

I will provide enough power and strength to all of them for churning the Ocean. Therefore, let them keep the mountain again in the correct position and start churning the ocean with refreshed energy and power. 32-33

Soothan Said:

As directed by Naaraayana Bhagawaan, they went back to the Ocean and started churning it again with refreshes and more power and energy. 33-34

After a while Nisaakaran or Moon rose up from the ocean which was being churned with hundreds of thousands of glowing rays sparkling out. 34-35

Thereafter, Sree Mahaa Lakshmee Dhevi, dressed in pure white, rose up from the churned Butter of Paalaazhi. Also, Suraadhevi or Soma Rasam, and the white horse in crystal white also arose from the Ocean. 35-36

The most divine celestial gem called Kausthubham rose from the clarified butter of Milky Ocean. This Kausthubha Rathnam or gem graces the chest of Lord Sree Mahaa Vishnu Bhagawaan. 36-37

Oh, Mahaa Mune or Saunaka! Both Kaamaddhenu and Paarijaatham were produced or born from Ksheera Saagaram which can fulfill all the wishes of Vipraas or Rishees. 37-38

Lakshmee Dhevi, Suraa Dhevi or Soma Rasam, Nisaakaran or Chandra Dhevan, and the White Steed or Horse all these went to the side of Dhevaas or were accepted by Dhevaas as their share. 38-39

Thereafter, Bhagawaan Ddhanvanthari Moorththy was formed in the ocean and rose up. He was carrying a white vessel full of Amrith inside. 39-40

Seeing this miraculous and wondrous appearance all the Asuraas joyously shouted aloud: "It is ours ... It is ours" And the entire area was filled with that sound. 40-41

Then, appeared the huge and majestic white elephant called Airaavatham with two pairs or four tusks which is also called as Naalkkompan or Four-Tusked Elephant. Indhra tamed that Airaavatham immediately and took it. 41-42

After having churned the Milky Ocean with Mandhara Parvvatham as churning drill and Vaasuki as the chord for a long time, Vaasuki got tired and started shaking its head heavily and spitting out Kaalakoota Visham or deadly poison called Kaalakootam. And from that Kaalakootam heavy fumes with fire started emitting which was capable of burning and engulfing the whole world within it. 42-43

Because of the suffocating smell of that Kaalakootam all the creatures of the three worlds fainted and Sankara or Mahaadheva Sivan swallowed the Kaalakoota Visham as requested by Brahmadheva to protect the whole three worlds. 43-44

Though swallowed, Mahaadheva Siva who is the embodiment and personification of divine Manthraas or Manthrams kept it within his neck by his divine power. [He could have been killed had he taken it inside.] From that day onwards he is known to us being called by the name Neelakanttan

- meaning one with a blue neck - because the Kaalakoota Visham is stuck in his throat or neck. 44-45

The valorous Dheithyaas or Asuraas seeing all these wonderful occurrences were wonderstruck and disappointed. They started arguing and fighting furiously with Dhevaas or gods for Amritham or Divine Nectar of Immortality and Sree or Sree Mahaa Lakshmi. 45-46

Then, Lord Sree Mahaa Vishnu Bhagawaan, The Paramaathma, with His illusory power took the form of very charming and enticing Mohini or Mohinee and appeared on the side of Asuraas. 46-47

Being illusioned by the enticing charm of that beautiful lady the Asuraas got mesmerized and lost their reasoning power. They unanimously placed the pot of Amritham in the hands of that fair damsel. 47

So ends this section.