

SREE MAHAABHAARATHAM

AADHI PARVVAM

28. Sauparnnam - GerudaYaathra (28. About Suparnnan or Garuda - Travel of Garuda)

Garuda goes to bring Amrith. As advised by his mother Garuda ate thousands of Nishaadhaas living in the remote area of the ocean and got rid of his hunger.

Soothan Said:

Having heard the words of serpents Garuda requested his mother: "I am going to steal and bring Amrith but tell me what to eat." 1

Vinatha Said:

In a remote region in the midst of the ocean Nishaadhaas have their fair homes. You eat thousands of Nishaadhaas and bring Amrith. 2

But make sure that you do not kill any Braahmana. Of all the creatures, a Braahmana is never to be killed. Therefore, never even think of killing a Braahmana even by mistake. 3

A Braahmana is like fire. When angry a Braahmana is like a blazing Fire, effulgent Sun, and deadly Poison. A Vipran or Braahmanan is the Guru or Preceptor of all. 4

A noble Braahmanan has all these forms. He is the topmost virtuous of all virtuous and noblest of all noble. Such a Braahmana should never be killed by you even if he is angry with you. 5

Therefore, you should never engage in any hostile or disturbing actions against any Braahmanan under any circumstance. Oh, my dear Son! Oh, the Sinless One! Even the Sooryan or Agni can consume or burn to ashes as a Braahmana of strict vows, when he is angry. You may please understand and realize that is the capacity of a true Braahmanan. And that is the indication of a true Braahmanan. A Braahmanan is Bhootha-

Jyeshthtan or the First-Born Entity; he is the topmost of all Four Orders of Caste (Braahmana, Kshethriya, Vaisya, and Soodhra); he is the Father of all; and he is the Guru or Master of all. 6-8

Gerudan Said:

Oh, my dear Mother! How can I identify a Braahmanan; what form is a Braahmanan; what is the behavior of a Braahmanan; and what is his prowess? 8

Is a Braahmana splendorous like a blazing fire? Or is he very serene with a calm appearance of glow like tranquil? Please describe to me all indications so that I can easily identify a Braahmanan. Please provide me very logical answers to all my questions so that I can easily identify a Braahmanan. 9-10

Vinatha Said:

Oh, my dear Child! If a Braahmanan entered into your throat is like a fish-hook, means if hooked there is escape from that. 10

My dear Son! Please keep it in your mind that an angry Braahmana will burn you to ashes like blazing fire logs. Therefore, even if you have severe anger against a Braahmana never kill him. 11

Because of unbound motherly love and affection Vinatha spoke with him again. A Braahmana, if eaten will remain undigested within your abdomen and will trouble you incessantly until your end. 12

Again because of her strong affection towards her beloved son, Vinatha warned Gerudan as above. Thereafter, knowing the incomparable strength and prowess of her son, Vinatha blessed him heartily with full consideration. 13

Thinking of the cheating and deception of the Naagaas or Serpents and the resultant affliction by her woe, Vinatha spoke to her son: [Vinatha was telling that she became a slave only because of the cheatings of the Naagaas.] "Your wings will be protected by Vaayu or Maruth or Air or Wind, your Prishtam or back or vertebral portion will be protected by Sooryan or Sun and Chandhran or Moon, your Sirassu or head will be

protected by Vahni or Agni-Dhevan, your Utal or body will be protected by Vasoos or Protectors of the World [Ashta-Vasoos or Eight Vasoos; 1) Earth, 2) Water, 3) Fire, 4) Wind, 5) Sky, 6) Aadhithyan or Sun, 7) Moon, and 8) Stars.] Oh, My dear Son! I will be sitting here itself with severe austerity and praying meditatively to all the deities for your benefit and successful completion of the task. May you have all success and may you be victorious. Therefore, go without having any obstruction or blockage on your way. May you successfully accomplish your task." 14-16

Soothan Said:

Hearing the kind words of blessings from his mother, Gerudan stretched out his wings and flew up in the sky with wind-like speed and in no time landed where the Nishaadhaas are living as he is being haunted by unbearable hunger. 17

In order to kill and eat Nishaadhaas, he raised a large amount of dust and sucked and drank and drained the water from the ocean and shook all the trees there. 18

Gerudan immediately spread his mouth reaching from earth to sky and brought all the Nishaadhaas together to the opened mouth of that Bujagaasana or the killer and eater of the snakes. 19

At that time innumerable Nishaadhaas fearfully came and entered into the widely opened mouth of that Gerudan and all the birds in groups tangled with the flowing dust and shook with the heavy wind struck with the wings of Gerudan, those birds flew in that sky of the forest. 20

Seeing innumerable Nishaadhaas have entered within his mouth, the strong and brave Gerudan, who is always roaming in the sky, closed his mouth and ate all those Nishaadhaas following the occupation of fishermen who eat all the fish they caught. 21

So ends this section.