

SREE MAHAABHAARATHAM

AADHI PARVVAM

30. Sauparnnam - Baalakhillya or Vaalakhilya Dhersanam (30. About Suparnnan or Garudan - Seeing Of Baalakhilyaas or Vaalakhillyaas or The Sixty Thousand Sages In The Size Of Thumb)

Soothan Said:

At the very touch of the mighty Geruda the huge branch of the banyan tree was about to break which was going to sit. Somehow, he supported the branch, preventing it from breaking and falling down. 1

As Geruda held the broken branch with his beak and supported and looked around he wondered to see the Baalakhillya Rishees hanging with their heads down on that branch. 2

Hearing bodyless voice: 'Those hanging on this bough is great Rishees of severe austerity and you should not slay or kill them.' And having seen those Rishees of severe austerity and penance and knowing that if the branch falls down these Rishees would certainly be killed, the mighty Geruda held the elephant and tortoise in his claws more firmly and at the same time holding and carrying the branch of the tree with Baalakhillyaas very firmly with his beak very strongly. 3-4

Thus, thinking and because of the fear that Baalakhillyaas will be killed if the bough falls down Geruda, the king of birds, held that bough or branch also safely in his beak. 5

The great Rishees were excited and wonderstruck at the sight of the mighty act, which could not be performed by even Dhevaas or gods, of that king of birds and eater of snakes and gave the name of Geruda or Gerudan, meaning bearer of heavy weight, to that mighty bird. Wow! Thus, he got the name 'Gerudan.' Thus, bearing such heavy weight and flying up in the sky the Lord and King of the birds and eater of serpents or snakes gained the name of Gerudan. 6-7

Afterwards, he flew slowly as one; Geruda, the elephant, tortoise, and the branch of the tree with Baalakhillya Rishees hanging heads down on it, but shaking the banyan tree. He flew to many different places. 8

As Geruda could not find a safe location for Baalakhillyaas, he wandered all around. But when reached Genddhamaadhana Mountain, Gerudan found his father Kasyapa Maharshi performing an austere penance there.

And Kasyapa Maharshi also found his divine son, Gerudan, with great strength, energy, valor, splendor, and divine effulgence flying faster than the mind or wind can travel carrying the mountainous bough of the banyan tree resembling a mountain peak and as the One who is running away from the curse of Brahmadhevan. 9-11

Gerudan is inconceivable, indescribable, and frightful to all creatures. He possessed great prowess. He was terrible with more splendor than most terrible fire. He was undefeatable by Dhevaas, Dhaanavaas, Raakshasaas, and or by anyone. His form was bigger than the biggest Mountain. He is capable of crossing the sky and drinking and drying the waters of all oceans. He resembles the Anthakan or god of death and breaks and shakes the entire universe. Seeing his son like that Kasyapa Maamuni realized his purpose and spoke to him how to resolve his issues: 12-15

Kasyapa Maharshi Said:

My dear son! Please do not take any rash heroic actions as you have to suffer and face many adverse results in the future. The great scholarly Baalakhillya Maharshees could blast and burn you down with such rash adventurous actions. Please do not give room for that. 15-16

Soothan Said:

Kasyapa Maharshi immediately propitiated and pleased Baalakhillya Maharshees, who themselves possess blasting capacity by drinking the Sunrays straight from Sun and who possess supreme austere power from severe penance, for the sake of his son, Geruda. 16-17

Kasyapan Said:

Oh, Maharsheendhrare or The Topmost Maharshees! Gerudan has started a great project for the welfare of all creatures of the universe. Please bless him and give permission for him to accomplish his task. 17-18

Soothan Said:

Having heard the request of Kasyapa Maharshi, the Baalakhillya Maharshees abandoned the bough and went Himaalayam to perform their austere penance. 18-19

After Baalakhillyaas left the bough, VinathaaSuthan or son of Vinatha or Gerudan spoke to his father Kasyapa Maharshi holding the bough firmly with his beak. 19-20

Gerudan Said:

Oh, Bhagawan or My dear Father, Kasyapa Maharshe! Where should I dump this bough or branch of the huge tree? Please advise me of a place where no human lives exist. 20-21

Soothan Said:

Then, Kasyapa Maharshi spoke of a mountain region without any human being with caves and dales fully covered with thick frost of ice like Arctic Antarctic regions which cannot be reached even with mind or mental imaginations or even in our thoughts. 21-22

The mountainous huge Gerudan with an ocean like huge cave of stomach flew up in the sky and went to that mountain of ice carrying the elephant, tortoise, and the bough. 22-23

The bough of the tree carried by that huge bird, Geruda, was so huge that it could not be girt around even with the cord made of one hundred cow hides. Gerudan, the lord of birds, flew and covered hundreds of thousands of Yojanaas with very high speed. And in no time Gerudan reached the snow mountain where there are no human beings. 23-25

Per words of advice from his father, Kasyapa Maharshi, Gerudan, the lord of birds, flew and reached the place of that snow mountain in a moment and with a thunderous sound dropped the bough there. 25-26

Struck with the storm raised by the move of the strong wings of the lord of the bird the great mountain got shaken and the trees there showering flowers around everywhere on the mountain. 26-27

And then peaks of the mountain decked with gems and gold adorning the whole mountain itself were loosened and fell down on all sides. 27-28

Many huge trees of the mountain struck down many boughs and those falling boughs dropped showers of golden flowers among dark foliage resembling the striking of glittering lightning within the dark clouds. 28-29

The trees on the mountain were as bright and shining as gold with mineral covering. Falling down upon the ground those minerals or metals shone as if they were reflected with brilliant rays of sun. 29-30

Perched on the peak of that mountain the king of bird Gerudan ate both elephant and tortoise and thus after eating both those huge animals and with added power, energy, and strength he rose and flew with his strong wings with great speed from the top of the mountain. 30-32

At that time the Dhevaas of heaven saw many bad omens as an indication that something untoward is going to happen to them. The Vajram or thunderbolt of Indhran started burning by itself producing flames and blazed up in fright. 32-33

Meteors, with flames and smoke, lost their orbital path and started falling on the ground even during daytime creating calamities and destruction. The weapons of Vasoos, Rudhraas, Aadhithyaas, Sidhddhaas, Saadhddhyaas, Maruths, and other Vibuddhaas or Dhevaas started fighting each other and wasting their divine power and energy. 33-35

Tornados, cyclones, heavy thunderstorms, and even Ulkkaas or flying meteors from sky fell upon which have never occurred even with magical power of Asuraas during the fight among Dhevaas and Asuraas. 35-36

Though the sky was cloudless, it roared tremendously with thunder. And the Dheva Naayaka (Dhevendhran) or the god of gods showered blood from the sky. 36-37

The flower garlands on the neck of Dhevaas faded [the heavenly Paarijaatha flowers are eternally fresh and faded] and the prowess and effulgence of Dhevaas diminished. The terrifying sky showered meteors along with blood throughout and nonstop. And due to the storm, the blown-up dust covered the hair-locks of them. 37-38

Seeing such terrifying and frightening omens the Dhevaas along with their Lord and Leader, Dhevendhran, approached their Guru, Brihaspathi, and spoke to him: 39

Indhran Said:

Oh, Bhagawan or Guro! What is reason or the cause of these meteors? Why is it falling like this with such shaken-up anger without any reason? I do not see any enemy capable of defeating us now. [Dhevendhran knew that the Asuraas are not prepared and ready to fight against Dhevaas at this time. That is why he is telling like this.] 40

Brihaspathi Said:

Hey, SathaKratho or One who has successfully completed One Hundred Yaagams! Because of your own fault and because of your carelessness, the ascetic power of the great Baalakhillya Rishees; Kasyapa and Vintha got a son, Gerudan - The Lord and King of Birds -, to defeat you. [The story because Baalakhillyaas got enmity with Indhra is copied below.] Gerudan can assume any form as he wishes. There is no 'impossible' in his dictionary. He is stronger than the strongest and more powerful than the most powerful. He can achieve any unachievable thing. He is coming to take away the Soma or Amrith from you, heaven. 41-42

[There are numerous stories associated with Balakhilyas in Hindu scriptures. One of the most famous stories is associated with the birth of Garuda. It was the result of the penance done by Balakhilyas to replace Indra that Garuda was born.]

[Once Kashyapa began a yajna to get a child. He entrusted Indra and the Balakhilyas to get the firewood. Each Balakhilya, as mentioned above, was only the size of a thumb. Indra quickly bought the firewood and when he saw the tiny Balakhilyas struggling even with small pieces, he ridiculed

them. They became angry and started a yajna against Indra. Indra asked Kashyapa for help, and the sage made peace with the Balakhilyas, who even gave him the benefits of their yajna. In return, they wanted a son from the yajna who would defeat Indra. Towards the end of Kashyapa's yajna Vinata approached him and he blessed her with a strong son. This was how Garuda was born, as per Mahabharata Adiparva Chapter 30.]

He, Gerudan, is strong enough and powerful enough to take away Amrith from you. He is smart and capable enough to achieve anything and accomplish any task successfully. 43

Soothan Said:

Hearing the words of Dheva Guru Brihaspathi, Vaasavan or Dhevendhran warned and spoke to the Security Guards who protect Amrith always: "Gerudan, the king of birds, who is very powerful and strong is coming to steal and take away Amrith. You have to be very alert and cautious always. Make sure the most powerful and valorous PakshiRaajan Gerudan should not be allowed to take away Amrith. The ranger of the skies, Gerudan, is endowed with great strength and power." We were thus warned by our Guru Brihaspathi. 44-45

Having heard from Dheva Guru Brihaspathi like that all Dhevaas were wonderstruck and frightened and they, Dhevaas, all stood around Amritha Kalasam or pot along with their leader Vajri or the holder of Vajram or the thunderbolt, Dhevendhran. 46

The Dhevaas wore breastplates of gold and were adorned with diamond and other gems and also their entire body was covered with white leather armors and were to protect from any type of attack from any challenger. 47

The mighty Aadhithyaas or Dhevaas or gods or deities also were fully prepared by wielding innumerable sharp-edged weapons of terrible shapes emitting sparks of fire and smoke. Thus, they were ready to face any strong robber challenges to take Amrith away from heaven. 48

The effulgent and splendorous Dhevaas ready with many disastrous sharp weapons emitting smoke and fire like the Chakrams or Discs, iron clubs,

spears, white or silver axes or choppers, Vel or Sakthi or most powerful Spears, glittering and sharp long swords, various kinds of missiles, and fear producing clubs, all befitting their bodies respectively. They stood there taking all precautions. 49-51

Thus, the most splendid and effulgent Dhevaas or gods of incomparable strength, energy, power, valor, and prowess and who were capable of splitting the towns of Asuraas or demons and who were as powerful and energetic as the fire of final dissolution time by taking all precautions stood protecting Amritham. 52

Thus, as the Dhevaas were fully prepared and ready to fight and brilliantly shining with thousands of glittering weapons like maces furnished with iron spikes, they shone like another Sun with brilliant rays. 53

So ends this section.