

SREE MAHAABHAARATHAM

AADHI PARVVAM ANUKREMANIKAA PARVVAM

36. SesaVriththaanthaKatthanam (36. Recital Of The Story of Seshan or Sesa or Ananthan)

The Serpent Seshan performed austere penance to appease Brahmadhevan and Brahmadhevan appeared and asked Seshan what is the boon he wished to have. Because of the quarrel among the brothers in the family I hate to stay at home. For the welfare and benefit of the universe, Brahmadheva entrusted responsibility of holding and supporting the universe to Seshan or Ananthan.

Saunakan Said:

Oh, the great orator, Sootha! You said the names of all leading serpents and that the self-conceited serpents were cursed by their mother, Kadhru. Having heard of the curse what the serpents have done for the release of the curse. 1

Soothan Said:

Of them, the serpents, the most renowned Seshan or Bhagawaan Seshan or Anantha Bhagawaan left or abandoned Kadhru, his mother, and performed severe austerity and penance eating Vaayu or air alone, meaning fully starving without eating and drinking anything, strictly maintaining his vow. 2

With full control of all senses or rather conquering his senses and strictly adhering the vows Anantha Bhagawaan performed austere penance at Holi places like Genddhamaadhana [Mountain], Sree Badharyaasramam, Gokarnnam, Pushkaram, Himalaya Mountains, and each and every other sacred temple, and Holi places. 3-4

Pathmajan or Brahmadhevan saw Ananthan who was performing such hard to practice severe austere penance and because of that his flesh, skin, and sinews dried up like a hay-straw and wearing knotted hair and clad in rags reflecting a MahaaMuni or a great self-realized sage. 5

Pithaamahan spoke to that Ananthan who strictly adhered austerly, penance and who maintains truthfulness: "Oh, Seshan! What a great Thapas you have performed! You have attained supreme power and infinite energy. Why don't you utilize it for the welfare and benefit of the world and for its living and non-living entities and elements. Please tell me what your desire is or what is it you wish." 6

Oh, Saintly Anantha or Sesha! You have attained infinite energy with your severe austerly and penance. You are putting the creatures of the world under heat wave as the heat energy emitted by you is becoming intolerable . Please let me know: "Oh, Seshan! What is the desire within you." 7

My own as well as co [this means brothers born of same father and brother, same mother but of different father, and or same father but of different mothers] brothers are wicked with retarded mind. It is impossible for me to stay with them in the same house. 8

It is just like or even worse than the enemies they are filled with jealousy and always jealous of one another. That is why I performed ascetic penance for not to see them or not to engage in any quarrel. 9

They are never kind and compassionate with Vintha and to her son Gerudan. They can never find happiness in staying with our co-mother Vinatha and co-brother Gerudan, though he is our own another brother or co-brother. 10.

All my own brothers hate him, Garudan, who is the strongest and mightiest of all with blissful boons granted our father, Kasyapan. 11

Here, I am abandoning my material body by this severe austerly and penance. I do not want to, and I will not associate with my brothers ever even the future lives. 12

Soothan Said:

Brahmadheva Pithaamahan or Grandsire said to thus saying Seshan: "Oh Sesha or Seshan! I do know the deceptive actions of your brothers. They are going to suffer the consequences of their wrong doings and offences against their mother, Kadhru. They are greedy and are at utter risk and

danger. Hey, Bhujamgama or Sarppa Sreshtta! It has already been decided how to punish them. Therefore, do not worry about it. They will be appropriately punished for their offence. I am very pleased with your austerity and penance with strict maintenance of vow and honesty. Please ask me for any boon you wish and desire. I will provide and fulfill your desire. Oh, Phaneeswara or Lord and God of Serpents! By the grace of God and destiny your mind is fixed in Ddharmma or virtue and honesty. Let your mind and intelligence be permanently and eternally fixed in Ddharmma.” 13-17

Seshan Said:

Oh, Pithaamahan! That is exactly what I wish and like always and that is the boon I desired to have. My mind and heart should find happiness and enjoyment in Ddharmmam or Virtue, Samam or Control of Senses and Composure, and Thapam or Thapas or Austere Penance. 17-18

Brahma or Brahmadhevan Said:

I am so pleased and propitiated with your composure and austerity and always support the universe and be there for the goodness, auspiciousness, and welfare of all its entities and elements of it and thus you can fulfill my desire also. You bear and support and keep steady the planets of the universe with all its villages, towns, cities, residences, oceans, mountains, and innumerable other parts are so unsteadily whirling. 18-19

Seshan Said:

Oh, the most divine Brahmadhevan! You are the Grandsire. You are the God. You are Prajeswaran or the Lord and God of all Prajaapathees or Progenitors. You are bestower of all boons. You are the Creator and Lord or God of the Universe. I will bear and keep the world or Universe steady. Oh, Prajaapathe or Brahmadhevan! Please keep or put the universe on my head. 20

Brahmadhevan Said:

Oh, Bhujamgama or The Best and Lord of Sarppaas or Snakes! Please go underneath the Earth. The earth is going to provide a crevice for you to

pass through. And you will provide me exceeding satisfaction and happiness by bearing the world steady and I will be fully gratified by doing so. 21

Soothan Said:

Exactly as stated by Brahmadhevan, the Earth made way by crevice for Seshan, and he went through it and started bearing the whole earth surrounded by the oceans with his head. 22

Brahmadhevan Said:

Hey, Sesa! You are the best of Sarppaas or Naagaas or serpents. You are Ddharmmadhevan or Ddharmmadheva or Ddharmma of the Naagaas because of the number of hoods or heads you possess. [The word meaning of Anantha is endless or eternal. And he is with One thousand hoods.] You are the one who bears or supports the earth with all the entities and elements of it by holding it on your head so seamlessly just like holding a blade of a grass, which even I, myself, and Indhran are not capable to. 23

Soothan Said:

Thus, Anantha Bhagawaan or Sesa Naaga, the most valorous hooded serpent, is living in Paathaalam or the underworld holding or bearing the world or universe as commanded by Brahmadhevan. Brahmadhevan, the Pithaamahan or Grandsire who is the best of all Dhevaas also asked Suparnnan or the best feathered sky ranger Gerudan to help Ananthan or to be a helper of Ananthan. 24-25

So ends this section.