

CHAPTER 39

(ASTIKA PARVA) Continued.

Story of Jaratkaru

सौतिरुवाच

एलापत्रवचः श्रुत्वा ते नागा द्विजसत्तमा

सर्वे प्रहृष्टमनसः साधु साध्वित्यथाब्रुवन्॥ १॥

Sauti said :

O best of the twice born, hearing what Elapatra said, all the snakes exclaimed in joy, "Well said! Excellent man!"

ततः प्रभृति तां कन्यां वासुकिः पर्यरक्षता

जरत्कारं स्वसारं वै परं हर्षमवाप च॥ २॥

From that day Vasuki carefully kept that maiden, his sister Jaratkaru and he took great pleasure in rearing her up.

ततो नातिमहान्कालः समतीत इवाभवत्।

अथ देवासुराः सर्वे ममन्थुर्वरुणालयम्॥ ३॥

Not long after this, the Devas and the Asuras churned the abode of Varuna (Ocean).

तत्र नेत्रमभून्नागो वासुकिर्बलिनं वरः।

समाप्यैव च तत्कर्म पितामहमुपागमन्॥ ४॥

And the greatly powerful Vasuki became its churning cord. As soon as this work was done, he approached the grandsire.

देवा वासुकिना सार्धं पितामहमथाब्रुवन्।

भगवञ्छापभीतोऽयं वासुकिस्तप्यते भृशम्॥ ५॥

The celestial with Vasuki addressed the Grandsire thus, "O lord, Vasuki is suffering from the fear of the curse.

अस्यैतन्मानसं शल्यं समुद्धर्तुं त्वमर्हसि।

जनन्याः शापजं देव ज्ञातीनां हितमिच्छतः॥ ६॥

You should draw out the dart, begotten by his mother's curse, which pierces the heart of Vasuki who is desirous of the weal of his race.

हितो ह्ययं सदाऽस्माकं प्रियाकारी च नागराट्।

प्रसादं कुरु देवेश शमयास्य मनोज्वरम्॥ ७॥

The king of the snakes is always our friend and benefactor; O lord of the gods, be gracious to him and remove the fever of his mind.

ब्रह्मोवाच

मयैव तद्वितीर्णं वै वचनं मनसाऽमराः।

एलापत्रेण नागेन यदस्याभिहितं पुरा॥ ८॥

तत्करोत्वेष नागेन्द्रः प्राप्तकालं वचः स्वयम्।

विनशिष्यन्ति ये पापा न तु यै धर्मचारिणः॥ ९॥

Brahma said :

O immortals, I have thought in my mind what you have said. Let the king of the snakes do what Elapatra had told him before. When the time comes, the wicked only will be destroyed and not the virtuous.

उत्पन्नः स जरत्कारुस्तपस्युग्रे रतो द्विजः।

तस्यैष भगिनी काले जरत्कारुं प्रयच्छतु॥ १०॥

Jaratkaru is (already) born; that Brahmana is now engaged in penances. Let him (Vasuki), at the proper time, give his sister to Jaratkaru.

एलापत्रेण यत्प्रोक्तं वचनं भुजगेन ह।

पन्नगानां हि तं देवास्तत्तथा न तदन्यथा॥ ११॥

O celestials! what had been said by Elapatra for the weal of the snakes is true. It is not otherwise.

सौतिरुवाच

एतच्छ्रुत्वा नागेन्द्रः पितामहवचस्तदा।

संदिश्य पन्नगान्सर्वान्वासुकिः शापमोहितः॥ १२॥

Sauti said :

The king of the snakes, afflicted with the curse, having heard what the Grandsire said, commanded all the snakes,

स्वसारमुद्यम्य तदा जरत्कारुमृषिं प्रति।

सर्पान्बहूञ्जरत्कारौ नित्ययुक्तान्समादधत्॥ १३॥

A large number of them who are always attentive to their duties, to watch the Rishi Jaratkaru. He said,

जरत्कारुर्धदा भार्यामिच्छेद्वरयितुं प्रभुः।

शीघ्रमेत्य तदाख्येयं तन्नः श्रेयो भविष्यति॥१४॥

“When the Lord Jaratkaru will ask for a wife, come immediately and inform me of it. The weal of our race depends upon it.”