

CHAPTER 159

Birth of Skanda and his praise by the Siddhas

सूत उवाच

वामं विदार्य निष्क्रान्तः सुतो देव्याः पुनः शिशुः।
स्कन्दाच्च वदने वहे शुक्रात्सुवदनोऽरिहा॥ १॥

Sūta said— Before the excellent faced Kumāra, the destroyer of the enemies was born, he was effused in the form of semen in the mouth of the fire, after which he emerged out of the left belly of the goddess tearing it.

कृत्तिकामेलनादेव शाखाभिः सविशेषतः।
शाखाभिधाः समाख्याताः षट्सु वक्त्रेषु विस्तृताः॥ २॥
यतस्ततो विशाखोऽसौ ख्यातो लोकेषु षण्मुखः।
स्कन्दोविशाखः षड्वक्त्रः कार्तिकेयश्च विश्रुतः॥ ३॥

The Kṛttikās¹ joined together with him after his birth and the six heads were fixed to the six trunks; for these reasons he is known as Skanda, Viśākha, Ṣaṇmukha and Kārttikeya.

चैत्रस्य बहुले पक्षे पञ्चदश्यां महाबलौ।
संभूतावर्कसदृशौ विशाले शरकानने॥ ४॥

On the moonless day of the month of Caitra, in the vast forest of reeds, the two infants having the lustre of the sun, were born.

चैत्रस्यैव सिते पक्षे पञ्चम्यां पाकशासनः।
बालकाभ्यां चकारैकं मत्वा चामरभूतये॥ ५॥

Again on the fifth bright day of the month of Māgha and Indra taking them to be auspicious for the gods, combined both of them into one.

तस्यामेव ततः षष्ठ्यामाभिषिक्तो गुहः प्रभुः।
सर्वैरमरसङ्घतैर्ब्रह्मेन्द्रोपेन्द्रभास्करैः॥ ६॥

On the sixth moon day of the same month, *abhiṣeka* was performed by the powerful gods besides Brahmā, Indra, Viṣṇu and Sūrya, as the chief commander of the gods, as Guha.

गन्धमाल्यैः शुभैर्घृषैस्तथा क्रीडनकैरपि।
छत्रैश्चामरजालैश्च भूषणैश्च विलेपनैः॥ ७॥
अभिषिक्तो विधानेन यथावत्षण्मुखः प्रभुः।

At that point of time lord Ṣaṇmukha was properly crowned as the chief commander of the offering of sandal paste, flower garland, auspicious incense, toys, umbrella, flywhisks, ornaments and decorative material.

सुतामस्मै ददौ शक्रो देवसेनेति विश्रुताम्॥ ८॥
पत्न्यर्थं देवदेवस्य ददौ विष्णुस्तदायुधान।
यक्षाणां दशलक्षाणि ददावस्मै धनाधिपः॥ ९॥

Indra then gave away the girl Devasenā, as his bride. Lord Viṣṇu presented Guha— the god of gods, several weapons, while Kubera offered him ten lakh of Yakṣas.

ददौ हुताशनस्तेजो ददौ वायुश्च वाहनम्।
ददौ क्रीडनकं त्वष्टा कुक्कुटं कामरूपिणम्।
एवं सुरास्तु ते सर्वे परिवारमनुत्तमम्॥ १०॥
ददुर्मुदितचेतस्काः स्कन्दायादित्यवर्चसे॥ ११॥

The wind god offered him the vehicle, Agni gave him his lustre, Tvaṣṭā gave him the toys, besides a cock which could take to any form at will. Thus all the gods presented, delightfully, the best of gifts to Skanda who had the lustre of the sun.

1. The six stars. The pleiades represented as nymphs and acting as nurses to Kārttikeya, the God of war.

जानुभ्यामवनौ स्थित्वा सुरसङ्घास्तमस्तुवन्।
स्तोत्रेणानेन वरदं षण्मुखं मुख्यशः सुराः॥ १२॥

Then all the prominent gods, kneeling over the earth, prayed him with the following *stotra*.

देवा ऊचुः

नमः कुमाराय महाप्रभाय
स्कन्दाय च स्कन्दितदानवाय।
नवार्कविद्युद्द्युतये नमोस्तुते
नमोऽस्तु ते षण्मुखकामरूप॥ १३॥
पिनद्धनानाभरणाय भर्त्रे
नमो रणे दारुणदारुणाय।
नमोऽस्तु तेऽर्कप्रतिमप्रभाय
नमोऽस्तु गुहाय गुहाय तुभ्यम्॥ १४॥

The gods said- "We salute you, O Śaṇmukha, you are highly radiant and illustrious like the rising sun or the lightening. We offer our salutation to you again and again. You have been adorned with various types of ornaments. You are preserver of the universe and are terrific for the demons in the battleground. Salutation to you, O Guha."

नमोऽस्तु त्रैलोक्यभयापहाय
नमोऽस्तु ते बालकृपापराय।
नमो विशालामललोचनाय
नमो विशाखाय महाव्रताय॥ १५॥

You remove the danger of the universe, salutation to you. You are always ready to shower your grace, salutation to you. You have spotless and vast eyes, salutation to you. O Viśākha, you perform huge *vratas*, salutation to you.

नमो नमस्तेऽस्तु मनोहराय
नमो नमस्तेऽस्तु रणोत्कटाय।
नमो भयूरोज्ज्वलवाहनाय
नमोस्तु केयूरवराय तुभ्यम्॥ १६॥
नमो धृतोदग्रपताकिने नमो
नमः प्रभावप्रणताय तेऽस्तु।

नमो नमस्ते वरवीर्यशालिने
क्रियापराणां भवभव्यमूर्तये॥ १७॥

O one of high resolves! The enchanter of the mind! O You are irresistible in fighting; Rider of the beautiful peacock in war; we salute You. The keeper of the lofty banner! the best among the blessed, the fulfiller of the aims of the good; we salute You. O mighty one! You are the present and the future forms of those beings who are devoted the karmas; we salute You.

क्रियापरा यज्ञपतिं च स्तुत्वा
विरेमुखे त्वमराधिपाद्याः।
एवं तदा षड्वदनं तु सेन्द्रा
मुदा सुतुष्टश्च गुहस्ततस्तान्।
निरीक्ष्य नेत्रैरमलैः सुरेशान्
शत्रून्हनिष्यामि गतज्वराः स्थ॥ १८॥

On being thus adored by Indra and the other Devas, Kārttikeya looked towards Them and said "O Devas! do not be afraid of anything. I shall kill your enemies. Be free from all your cares and anxieties.

कुमार उवाच
कं वः कामं प्रयच्छामि देवता ब्रूत निर्वृताः।
यद्यप्यसाध्यं हृद्यं वो हृदये चिन्तितं परम्॥ १९॥

O Devas! also tell me what object of yours I may fulfil. I shall fulfil your wish even if it may be difficult to accomplish."

इत्युक्तास्तु सुरास्तेन स्तुत्वा प्रणतमौलयः।
सर्व एव महात्मानं गुहं तद्गतमानसाः॥ २०॥

The Devas thus addressed by Kārttikeya, bowing down their heads before Him said Guha, the high-souled with devotion.

दैत्येन्द्रस्तारको नाम सर्वामरकुलान्तकृत्।
बलवान् दुर्जयो दुष्टो दुराचारोऽतिकोपनः।
तमेव जहि हृद्योऽर्थ एषोऽस्माकं भयापह॥ २१॥
एवमुक्तस्तथेत्युक्त्वा सर्वामरपदानुगः।
जगाम जगतां नाथः स्तूयमानोऽमरेश्वरैः॥ २२॥

तारकस्य वधार्थाय जगतः कण्टकस्य वै।

“The demon Tārakāsura has destroyed all the Devas. He is most valiant, unconquerable, wicked and wrathful. Please, destroy him. He is our terror, this is our only desire.” Hearing such words Kumāra Kārttikeya said— “I will kill him” and at once accompanied the Devas and marched to kill Tārakāsura.

ततश्च प्रेषयामास शक्रो लब्धसमाश्रयः॥ २३॥

दूतं दानवसिंहस्य परुषाक्षरवादिनम्।

स तु गत्वाब्रवीहैत्यं निर्भयो भीमदर्शनः॥ २४॥

Then Indra, getting his refuge, sent his messenger to deliver his blunt message to the demon king; the messenger went to him dauntlessly and said.

दूत उवाच

शक्रस्त्वामाह देवेशो दैत्यकेतो दिवस्पतिः।

तारकासुर तच्छ्रुत्वा घटशक्त्या यथेच्छया॥ २५॥

यज्जगद्दलनादाप्तं किल्बिषं दानव त्वया।

तस्याहं शांसकस्तेऽद्य राजास्मि भुवनत्रये॥ २६॥

श्रुत्वैतद्दूतवचनं कोपसंरक्तलोचनः।

उवाच दूतं दुष्टात्मा नष्टप्रायविभूतिकः॥ २७॥

The messenger said— “O Tārakāsura! Indra has told me to inform you that he is the lord of heaven, and, O Demon! I am his messenger. I have told you what he directed me to do. Besides this, Indra has also told me to inform you that he is the king of the three realms, and as you have tormented the world, he will now punish you.” Hearing those words the demon, whose prosperity was about to vanish, said with great fury—

तारक उवाच

दृष्टं ते पौरुषं शक्र रणेषु शतशो मया।

निस्त्रपत्वान्न ते लज्जा विद्यते शक्र दुर्मते॥ २८॥

Tāraka said— “O messenger! tell Indra that I have seen his valour hundreds of time in warfare. Is he not ashamed of himself. He is

veritably a shameless creature!”

एवमुक्ते गते दूते चिन्तयामास दानवः।

नालब्धसंश्रयः शक्रो वक्तुमेवं हि चाहति॥ २९॥

जितः स शक्रो नोऽकस्माज्जायते संश्रयाश्रयः।

निमित्तानि च दुष्टानि सोऽपश्यददुष्टचेष्टितः॥ ३०॥

Hearing those words the messenger returned and Tārakāsura began to ponder. He said to himself— “Indra would not say so without having got support of some powerful ally, for I have several times subdued him in war. We have conquered him thoroughly; now all on a sudden how has he got another’s protection?” Afterwards, the vicious minded Tārakāsura has seen many inauspicious omens.

पांसुवर्षमसृक्यातं गगनादवनीतले।

भुजनेत्रप्रकम्पं च वक्त्रशोषं मनोभ्रमम्॥ ३१॥

स्वकान्तावक्त्रपद्मानां प्लानतां च व्यलोकयत्।

दुष्टांश्च प्राणिनो रौद्रान् तोऽपश्यददुष्टवेदिनः॥ ३२॥

तदचिन्तयैव दितिजो न्यस्तचिन्तोऽभवत् क्षणात्।

यावद्भजघटाघण्टारणत्काररवोत्कटाम्॥ ३३॥

तद्वत्तुरगसङ्घातक्षुण्णभूरेणुपिञ्ज्राम्।

चंचलस्यन्दनोदग्रध्वजराजिविराजिताम्॥ ३४॥

विमानैश्चाद्भुताकारैश्चलितामरचामरैः।

तां भूषणनिबद्धां च किन्नरोद्गीतनादिताम्॥ ३५॥

नानानाकतरुत्फुल्लकुसुमापीडधारिणीम्।

विकोशास्त्रपरिष्कारां वर्मनिर्मलदर्शनाम्॥ ३६॥

बन्धुदुष्टुष्टस्तुतिरवां नानावाद्यनिनादितम्।

सेनां नाकसदां दैत्यः प्रासादस्थो व्यलोकयत्॥ ३७॥

चिन्तयामास स तदा किञ्चिदुद्विग्नमानसः।

अपूर्वः को भवेद्योद्धा यो मया न विनिर्जितः॥ ३८॥

ततश्चिन्ताकुलो दैत्यः शुश्राव कटुकाक्षरम्।

सिद्धबन्दिभिरुदुष्टमिदं हृदयदारणम्॥ ३९॥

He saw the shower of dust, the fall of blood from the sky, felt the throbbing of the left eye, the drying up of the mouth, delusion of mind, the turning dull of the lotus faces of the ladies, the ferocious beings making inauspicious

sound. Afterwards, he saw the army of the Devas advancing in chariots with tinkling bells, streaming with lofty banners and flyflaps, having a multitude of singing Kinnaras in its force, with the warriors wearing garlands of celestial flowers, armour and weapons, playing on various kinds of music. He saw the armies getting dusky-coloured on account of the dust rising from the hoofs of the marching horses. The banners were flying on their running chariots. The wonderful chariots and cāmaras over them were looking brilliant. The bards were singing praises of the Devas. He saw that army from the terrace of the mansion and anxiously said to himself—“Who can be such an extraordinary warrior whom I did not subdue in war previously.” Afterwards, the demon king heard the following sharp words uttered from the mouths of the bards.

अथ गाथा

जयातुलशक्तिदीधितिपिञ्जर भुजदण्डचण्डरणरभस॥

सुरवदनकुमुदकाननविकासनेन्दो कुमार जय दितिजकुल-
महोदधिवडवानल॥ ४०॥

पण्मुख मधुररवमयूररथ सुरमुकुटकोटि-

घटितचरणनवाङ्कुरमहासन॥

जय ललितचूडाकलापनवविमलदल-

कमलकान्त दैत्यवंशदुःसहदावानल॥ ४१॥

He heard the bards of the Devas saying “O Kumāra! You are shining with the lustre of unequalled prowess. By Your mighty valour you are well-skilled in the arts of warfare, victory to You! You are pleasing like the Moon, the Destroyer of the demons like the fire! Victory to You! O Rider of the chariot drawn by a peacock. O Kārttikeya! the fingernails of Your feet are being rubbed, by the coronets of the koṭis and koṭis of Devas, victory to You. You are the lord of the pure groups of the lotus-like heads of the Devas; It is You only who are the unbearable conflagration fire destroying the whole family of the demons, victory to You.

जय विशाख विभो जय सकललोकतारक॥

स्कन्द जय गौरीनन्दन घण्टाप्रिय॥

प्रिय विशाखविभो धृतपताकप्रकीर्णपटल

कनकभूषणभासुरदिनकरच्छाय॥ ४२॥

जय जनितसंभ्रमलीलालूताखिलाराते

जय सकललोकतारक दितिजासुखरतारकान्त॥

स्कन्द जय बाल सप्तवासर

जय भुवनावलिशोकविनाशन॥ ४३॥

O Viśākha! O Lord! The Redeemer of all the realms, may You be victorious. O Skanda! O Son of Gaurī, O Vibhu, wearer of golden ornaments, conquer. You are the only who can uproot the enemies by Your mere sport. May You conquer. O Skanda! O Bāla, seven days old, the Dispeller of the grief of the three realms, conquer. You are the Destroyer of the Tārakāsura, the Lord of the demons, conquer. You are the destroyer of the sorrows of the world! May you conquer in every way.”

इति श्रीमात्स्ये महापुराणे देवासुरसंग्रामे रणोद्योगो नामैकोन-

षष्ट्यधिकशततमोऽध्यायः॥ १५९॥
