

course on devotion to Hari and incidentally gave an account of his own past; how in a previous birth he was a son of a servant-maid in the service of seers and Brahmanas, how he was brought up by the latter with affection, how their association helped him to cultivate devotion to Lord, how after their departure he wandered aimlessly with his mother who soon died, how he was sitting in the forest meditating on the Lord when He appeared in his mind; in a later Kalpa he was born of Brahmā as Nārada;² advised Haryaśvās on the path of 'not returning' (*anivartana*) which they adopted; with his mind set on Īśvara-Brahman he advised again their brothers Śabalāśvās in the same way and they followed it too; for so advising his sons, he was cursed by Dakṣa to be always a wanderer with no settled home;³ accompanied Angiras to the court of Citraketu lamenting his child's death; instructed him in *Mantropaniṣad* to realise the presence of Sankarṣaṇa; showed the king and his relations the *Jīva* of the dead child but pointing how the *Ātman* alone is eternal; the text of the *vidyā* imparted to Citraketu; went back to Angiras in Brahmaloaka; could not find fault with Hara for violating Brahmaloaka *dharma*; told Śuka the story of Citraketu; could not comprehend the Great Being;⁴ could not comprehend Hari's *māyā*;⁵ cursed Nalakūbera and Maṇigrīva, sons of Kubera, for their intoxicated pride; his view on the merits of poverty as contrasted with wealth; went to Nara-Nārāyaṇa's abode after cursing Kubera's sons;⁶ welcomed Brahmā while with Priyavrata and his father Manu;⁷ called on Prācīnabarhis and imparted *Adhyātmatatva* by narrating the story of Purañjana and explaining by it the relation of *Jīva* to *Paramātma*; then he went back to Siddhaloaka; met Prācetasas performing austerities on the western sea and advised the quick path to reach Hari; departed to Brahmaloaka; sang the praise of Ananta in Brhmasabha;⁸ advised Hariścandra to pray to Varuṇa for a child;⁹ spoke to Ūrvaśī of Purūravas as a handsome person;¹⁰