

their faces. Then they are stabbed with knives made of asipatra. They drop down unconscious and when they recover their senses, the same process is repeated.

(8) *Sūkaramukham*. Kings who neglect their duties and oppress their subjects by misrule, are punished in this hell. They are crushed to a pulp by beating until they fall down unconscious and when they recover, they are again subjected to the same treatment.

(9) *Andhakūpam*. This is the hell for punishing those who oppress Brāhmaṇas, gods and the poor. In this Kūpa (well) there are wild beasts like tiger, bear etc. carnivorous birds like eagle, kite etc. venomous creatures like snakes and scorpions and insects like bugs, mosquitoes, etc. The sinners have to endure the constant attacks of these creatures, until the expiry of the period of their punishment.

(10) *Kṛmibhojanam* (*Food for worms*). Depraved Brāhmaṇas who take their food without worshipping gods and honouring guests, are thrown into this "Kṛmibhojana" Naraka which is one lakh yojanas in extent. Worms, insects and serpents sting them and eat them up. Once their bodies are completely eaten up by these creatures, they are provided with new bodies, which are also eaten up in the above manner. They have to continue there in this manner, till the end of their term of punishment.

(11) *Taptamūrti*. Those who plunder or steal other people's gold, jewels, ornaments or money are cast into the furnaces of this Naraka, which is built of iron and always remains red hot with blazing fire.

(12) *Sālmali*. This Naraka is intended for men and women who have committed adultery. A figure made of iron, heated red-hot is placed there. The victim is urged to embrace it. Yama's servants flog the victim from behind.

(13) *Vajraṅkaśāli*. This Naraka is for the punishment of those who have unnatural intercourse with cows and other animals. Here, the guilty people are made to embrace iron images full of diamond needles.

(14) *Vaitaraṇi*. This is the Naraka for Kings who have violated all ordinances of Śāstras and for adulterers. It is the most terrible place of punishment. Vaitaraṇi is a river filled with human excreta, urine, blood, hair, bones, nails, flesh, fat and all kinds of dirty substances. There are various kinds of ferocious beasts in it. Those who are cast into it are attacked and mauled by these creatures from all sides. The sinners have to spend the term of their punishment, feeding upon the contents of this river.

(15) *Pūyodakam*. This is a well, filled with excreta, urine, blood, phlegm etc. Brāhmaṇas and others who have intercourse with women of low caste against customs, ordinances etc. vagabonds who wander about irresponsibly like animals and birds and other such sinners are cast into this Naraka.

(16) *Prāṇarodham*. This Naraka is for the punishment of Brāhmaṇas who keep dogs, asses and other mean animals and constantly hunt and kill animals for food. Here the servants of Yama gather round the sinners and cut them limb by limb with their arrows and subject them to constant insult.

(17) *Viśasanam*. This Naraka is for the torture of those who perform Yāga by killing cows to display their wealth and splendour. They will have to remain there

during the whole term of their punishment under the constant flogging of Yama's servants.

(18) *Lālābhakṣam*. This is the Naraka for lustful people. The lascivious fellow who makes his wife swallow semen, is cast into this hell. Lālābhakṣam is a sea of semen. The sinner lies in it feeding upon semen alone.

(19) *Sārameyāśanam*. Those guilty of unsocial acts like incendiarism, poisoning food, mass slaughter, ruining the country, etc. are cast into the Naraka called Sārameyāśana. There, nothing but the flesh of dogs is available for food. There are 700 dogs in that Naraka and all of them are as ferocious as leopards. They attack the sinners who come there from all sides and tear their flesh from their bodies with their teeth.

(20) *Avīci*. This Naraka is for those guilty of bearing false witness, false swearing or assuming false names. They are hurled into Avīci from a mountain which is 100 yojanas in height. The whole region of Avīci is always shaken like an ocean with turbulent waves. As soon as the sinners fall into it they are utterly smashed into dust. They are again restored to life and the punishment is repeated.

(21) *Ayaḥpānam*. Those who belong to the first three castes—viz. Brāhmaṇas, Kṣatriyas and Vaiśyas—who indulge in drinking Soma, Surā etc. are bound and thrown into this hell. They are forced to drink melted iron in liquid form.

(22) *Kṣhārakardamam*. Braggarts and those who insult people of noble birth are cast into this hell. Here, Yama's servants keep the sinners upside down and torture them in various ways.

(23) *Rakṣobhakṣam*. This Naraka is for the punishment of meat-eaters. There are separate compartments in this hell for those who perform human sacrifice, eat human flesh or the flesh of other creatures. All the living beings they had killed before, would have arrived here in advance. They would all join together in attacking, biting and mauling these sinners. Their shrieks and complaints would be of no avail there.

(24) *Sūlaprotam*. People who take the life of others who have done no harm to them, by deceiving them or by treachery, with weapons like the trident, are thrown into the "Sūlaprotam" hell. Yama's servants fix each of the sinners of the above class, on the top of a trident. They are forced to spend the whole term of their punishment in that position, suffering intense thirst and hunger, enduring all the tortures inflicted on them by Yama's servants.

(25) *Dandaśūkam*. Sinners who persecute fellow creatures like venomous serpents are cast into this Naraka. There are many wild beasts and many hooded serpents here. They eat alive, the sinners who fall into this hell.

(26) *Vaṭarodham*. This hell is for those who persecute the creatures living on mountain-peaks, dense forests, hollow trunks of trees, etc. It resembles mountains, caves, forests etc. After throwing them into this hell the sinners are tortured with fire, snake, poison and weapons, just as they had tortured other creatures, while on earth.

(27) *Paryāvartanakam*. One who denies food to a person who happens to come at meal-time and abuses him, is thrown into this Naraka. The moment he falls into it, his eyes are put out by being pierced with the