

saluted him with great devotion and was highly delighted. I told the lord "Please create various subjects."

59. On hearing my words, the lord of lords, Rudra, created many Gaṇas identical with Himself.

60. I again told the great lord Rudra—"O lord, please create those subjects, tormented by the fear of birth and death".

61. O foremost among sages ! on hearing my words the merciful lord Rudra laughed and said thus.

Lord Rudra said :—

62. O Brahmā, I shall not create the subjects tormented by the fear of birth and death. The inauspicious beings are immersed in the ocean of distress by their own actions.

63. In my manifestation in the form of preceptor I shall lift up these beings immersed in the ocean of distress by conferring on them perfect knowledge.

64. You alone, create all the miserable subjects, O Lord ! At my bidding, you will not be bound by illusion.

Brahmā said :—

65. Saying this, the lord, the glorious Śiva vanished along with His attendants even as I was watching.

CHAPTER SIXTEEN

(Description of the Creation)

Brahmā said :

1-2. O Nārada, after performing the Pentuplication of the Bhūtas, elements and their attributes sound etc., I evolved the gross Ether, wind, fire, water and the Earth out of them and created mountains, seas, trees etc. and the periods of time ending with Kali and other ages.

3. I created many other things as well, but O sage, I was not satisfied. Then O sage, I meditated on Śiva and his consort Ambā and created aspirants.

4-7. I created Marīci from my eyes, Bhṛgu from my