

feel the brunt of our attack. Ere long you will fall by feeling the same.”

18. Thus taunted by them, Gaṇeśa became furious and took the staff with his hands and struck the Gaṇas even as they continued to speak harsh words.

19. Then the fearless Gaṇeśa, son of Pārvati rebuked the heroic Gaṇas of Śiva and spoke as follows:—

*The son of Pārvati said:—*

20. “Get away. Get away. Or I shall give you a fore-taste of my fierce valour. You will be the laughing-stock of all.”

21. On hearing these words of Gaṇeśa, the Gaṇas of Śiva spoke to one another.

*Śiva's Gaṇas said:—*

22. What shall be done ? Where shall we go ? Why shall we not act ? Bounds of decency are observed by us. He would not have acted thus, otherwise.

*Brahmā said:—*

23. Then the Gaṇas of Śiva went to Śiva who was standing at the distance of a Krośa from Kailāsa and spoke to him.

24. Śiva ridiculed them all. The trident-armed great lord of fierce temperament spoke to his Gaṇas who professed to be heroes.

*Śiva said:—*

25. “Hello, Gaṇas, impotent wretches, you profess to be heroic but are never so. You are unfit to stand before me and speak. If he is only taunted he will speak in similar tone again.

26. Go and beat him. Some one among you may be competent to do so. Why should I speak more ? He must be driven away.”

*Brahmā said:—*

27. O great sage, when rebuked thus by lord Śiva, the excellent Gaṇas went back and spoke to him.