

of lord Śiva, the perfectly wise and endless Being, got into it.

4. At the same time, the distressed grief-stricken Kṛttikās approached him with dishevelled hair and began to speak like mad women.

*Kṛttikās said:—*

5. O ocean of mercy, how is it that you ruthlessly leave us and go? This is not a virtuous thing for a fostered son to forsake his mothers.

6. You have been brought up by us affectionately. Hence you are our son in virtue of that. What shall we do? Where shall we go? What can we do?

7. After saying this and closely embracing Kārttikeya, the Kṛttikās fell into a swoon due to the imminent separation from their son.

8. Restoring them to consciousness and instructing them with spiritual utterances, O sage, he got into the chariot along with them and the Pārṣadas too.

9. Seeing and hearing various auspicious and pleasing things Kumāra went to the palace of his father along with the Pārṣadas.

10. Kumāra reached the foot of a Nyagrodha tree at Kailāsa in the fast chariot along with Nandin seated to his right.

11. There Kumāra, the son of Śiva, an expert in various divine sports, waited along with the Kṛttikās and the chief of Pārṣadas, in great delight.

12. Then all the gods, sages, Siddhas, Cāraṇas, Viṣṇu and Brahmā announced his arrival.

13. Then in order to see him Śiva, along with Viṣṇu, Brahmā, the gods, sages and others went there.

14. Many conches, Bheris and Tūryas were sounded. There was great jubilation among the delighted gods.

15. Virabhadra and other Gaṇas followed them with different chiming cymbols beating the time and sporting about.

16. Eulogising and being eulogised they sang songs of praise.