

fight when many Dānavas were killed, the Gaṇas of Siddhas shouted "Victory."

10-11. When packs of Jackals began to dance in the midst of the putrefying suets, fat and flesh, when beasts of prey, ghosts and spirits began to roam in the terrible slough of slushy blood, when the Daityas were smashed thus, the trident-bearing lord consoled Pārvati and said.

*Śiva said:—*

"O beloved, formerly I had performed the great Vrata called Mahāpāśupata.

12. The strength that I derived therefrom is exhausted whence this fall of the immortals at the hands of the mortals. O goddess, merit has declined due to the physical contact with you.

13. I will create a wonderfully divine and terrible forest and going there I shall perform still more severe vrata whereby, O beautiful lady, you shall be free from fear and sorrow."

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

14. After saying this, the noble soul went to a holy and terrible forest. He proclaimed loudly his intention and performed penance highly illuminated.

15. Śiva performed penance for a thousand years the like of which could not be performed by the gods or Asuras. Pārvati stayed behind in Mandara mountain awaiting for the return of the lord.

16. The chaste lady, endowed with good conduct remained alone in that cavern. She was terrified and distressed. Of course she was guarded by her son Viraka.

17. Then the Daitya whose mental steadiness had been shattered by the arrows of Kāma, became bold and haughty due to the boons that had been granted to him. He came to the cavern accompanied by his soldiers.

18. Forsaking food, drink and sleep, the infuriated Daitya accompanied by his army fought with Viraka a very wonderful battle for five hundred, five days and nights.

19-21. Various weapons were used by the Daityas—Swords, javelins, slings, maces, sharp missiles, arrows with