

them to ashes, only at the request of the gods. It is well known.

44. Formerly Pārvatī, the Mother of all, the goddess of all, fought with Śumbha and others and killed them only at the request of the gods.

45. Even today, the gods have sought refuge in Brahmā. And he along with the gods and the lord Viṣṇu has sought refuge in me.

46. O Emissary, paying heed to the request of Viṣṇu, Brahmā and others, I, though lord of all, have come here in the battle of the gods.

47. Really you are the foremost of the comrades of Kṛṣṇa, the great soul. Those Daityas who had been formerly killed are not on a par with you.

48. What is there excessively shameful in my fight with you, O king ? I the lord have been urged humbly to carry out the task of the gods.

49. Go to Śaṅkhacūḍa and tell him what I have said. Let him do what is proper. I shall carry out the task of the gods.

Sanatkumāra said:—

50. On saying this, Śiva the great god, stopped. The emissary stood up and returned to Śaṅkhacūḍa.

CHAPTER THIRTYSIX

(Mutual fight)

Sanatkumāra said:—

1. The emissary returned and mentioned the words of Śiva, in detail and truthfully. He conveyed his decision as it was.

2. On hearing that, the valorous Dānava Śaṅkhacūḍa accepted lovingly the alternative of a fight.

3. Hurriedly he got into his vehicle along with his ministers. He commanded his army against Śiva.