

were brown and brilliant. He was indefatigable.

41. He bowed to Śiva Parameśvara and said—"O lord give me names and assign me my task."

42. On hearing it Lord Śiva laughed. With words thunderlike in resonance, Lord Śiva addressed the person thus.

*Śiva said* :—

43. "You will be famous as Viṣṇu by name as you are all-pervasive. You will have many other names conferring happiness on devotees.

44. Perform penance highly conducive to the achievement of the matter in hand, Be firm in it." Saying so, the lord bestowed on him the Vedas through his nostrils.

45. Śiva vanished accompanied by Śakti and his attendants. After due obeisance to Śiva, Viṣṇu began his great penance.

46. Even after performing the penance for twelve thousand divine years, Viṣṇu could not achieve his desire, the vision of Śiva that confers everything.

47. He became suspicious and respectfully meditating on Śiva pondered "What shall I do now?"

48. In the meantime the auspicious voice of Śiva was heard. "Perform penance again for removing your doubts.

49. On hearing it Viṣṇu performed a terrible penance, for a long time, following the path of meditation.

50. That Being Viṣṇu became enlightened, following the path of meditation. He was delightfully surprised. "O what is that True entity?"

51. From the body of Viṣṇu who thus exerted himself, water-currents of various sorts began to flow as a result of Śiva's Māyā.

52. O great sage, the Supreme Brahman in the form of divine waters pervaded the entire void. A mere contact with the same is destructive of sins.

53. Viṣṇu, the weary person went to sleep amidst the waters. He was in that blissful state of delusion for a long time.

54. As approved in the Vedas, his name came to be established as Nārāyaṇa (Having water as abode). Excepting for that Primordial Being there was nothing then.