

CHAPTER NINETEEN

(Description of Śiva's sports)

Brahmā said:—

1. After giving his daughter in marriage, Dakṣa gave her different articles in the form of dowry. Many gifts were given to Śiva. Dakṣa gave monetary gifts to the brahmins with great delight.

2. Then Viṣṇu stood up. Approaching Śiva with palms joined in reverence and accompanied by Lakṣmī, the Garuda-vehicled God Viṣṇu spoke thus.

Viṣṇu said:—

3. O great lord, O ocean of mercy, lord of devas, O dear one, you are the father and Satī is the mother of the world.

4. You have taken incarnation out of sheer sport for the welfare of the good and suppression of the wicked—so says the eternal scripture.

5. You are fair-complexioned and Satī has the blue lustre of the glossy collyrium. I on the other hand am blue in hue and Lakṣmī is fair-complexioned. You two shine in juxtaposition with us two.

6. O Śiva, along with this Satī, protect the good people and the devas. Similarly always bestow auspicious goodness upon the people of this world.

7. O lord of living beings, this is my humble submission. you shall kill the man, whoever it may be, who sees or hears her with lust in his mind.

Brahmā said :—

On hearing these words of Viṣṇu, lord Śiva laughed. The omniscient lord told the slayer of Madhu, “Be it so.”

9. O great sage, after this, Viṣṇu returned to his abode. He kept the incident quite secret but asked the people to continue the festivities.

10. I approached the Goddess (Satī) and performed in detail all the sacrificial rites as laid down in the Gṛhya-sūtras.