

in the universe. We bow to the primordial Prakṛti whose forms and activities are not known to the three worlds.

23. We bow to the primordial Prakṛti favourably disposed to the devotees. Persons endowed with devotion to her are not bedevilled by poverty, delusion and destruction.

24. O great goddess, please carry out our tasks. O Pārvatī, please remove the delusion of Viṣṇu. O goddess Durgā, obeisance be to you.

25-26. O Śivā, when the fight between Jalandhara and Śiva started, for killing Jalandhara, Vṛndā was deluded by Viṣṇu at the bidding of Gaurī. She was made to forsake her virtue and reduced to ashes in the fire. She attained salvation.

27. Jalandhara was slain in the battle by Śiva who took pity on us and who always blesses his devotees. We have been relieved from his fear.

28. It is at his bidding that we all have sought refuge in you. You and Śiva, O goddess, are always engaged in uplifting your devotees.

29. Infatuated by the beauty of Vṛndā, Viṣṇu is staying there itself. He has lost his balance. He is deluded. He has smeared himself with the ashes from her pyre.

30. O great goddess deluded by your illusion, Viṣṇu does not come to his own though advised and consoled by the gods and Siddhas.

31. O great goddess, be merciful. Enlighten Viṣṇu so that he shall return to his region and carry out the task of the gods with a settled mind.

32. Eulogising thus, the gods saw a sphere of refulgence in the sky pervading all the quarters with its flames.

33. O Vyāsa, Brahmā and other gods including Indra heard a celestial voice from the sky bestowing their desire.

*The celestial voice said:—*

34. O gods, it is I who stand in three forms by the variety of the three attributes, Rajas, Sattva and Tamas. The three forms are Gaurī, Lakṣmī, and Sarasvatī.

35. Hence you go to them respectfully at my bidding. If they are pleased they will fulfil your desire.