

relieved of His pangs of separation. Śiva, free from aberrations, and a lover of good men, acted thus only for following the worldly conventions.

25. The Earth too, as Śiva bade her, returned to her abode along with the child. She was extremely happy.

26. The child acquired the name Bhauma (son of the Earth). He attained youth immediately. For a long time he worshipped lord Śiva at Kāśī.

27. By the grace of lord Śiva, the son of the Earth, acquired the status of a planet. He went to the heavenly sphere beyond the region of Venus.

28. O sage, thus I have told you the story of Śiva and His separation from Sati. Now listen to the story of His performance of penance.

CHAPTER ELEVEN

(Śiva and Himavat meet together)

Brahmā said :—

1-2. O Nārada, the daughter of the mountain, honoured in the three worlds, was brought up in the palace of Himācala. When she was eight years old, Śiva distressed by Śati's separation came to know of her birth. Keeping her wonderful memory within his heart He rejoiced much.

3. In the meantime, following the conventions of the world, Śiva wished to perform penance in order to concentrate his mind properly.

4-5. Taking some important Gaṇas of quiet nature, Nandin and others, with Him, He went to the excellent Himālayan ridge—Gaṅgāvatāra, O sage, where the great holy river Gaṅgā flowed from Brahmapura²⁰ formerly, in order to quell sins.

20. Cunningham (A. G. P. 299) identifies Brahmapura (the Po-lo-ki-mo-pu-lo of Hwen Thsang : Waters, I. P. 329) with the capital city Vairāṭapattana of the hilly country lying between the Alakanandā and the Karnali rivers. The territory covered the districts of Garhwal and Kumaon (Cf. Br. S. ch. 14 and G.D. P. 40) and was stretched within 667 miles in circuit.