

24. O sage, Arundhatī, the daughter of Medhātithi, the greatest of all chaste ladies shone all the more on attaining Vasiṣṭha.

25. O excellent sage, she secured Vasiṣṭha and bore the auspicious sons Śakti²⁴¹ etc.

26-27. O excellent sage, I have narrated to you the story of Sandhyā. It is holy, sanctifying, divine and bestower of all benefits. He or she who hears this story accompanied by auspicious rites attains all cherished desires. There is no doubt about it.

CHAPTER EIGHT

(The description of the form and features of Vasanta)

Sūta Said :—

1. After hearing the words of Brahmā, Prajāpati, Nārada became delighted in his mind and spoke these words.

Nārada said:—

2. O Brahmā, the great disciple of Viṣṇu, endowed with great intellect, you are a blessed devotee of Śiva and a guide to the understanding of the great principle.

3. You have narrated the divine story of Arundhatī and her previous form. It increases our devotion to Śiva.

4. Now, O knower of virtue, please tell me the excellent story of Śiva, that quells all sins and is very excellent bestower of all auspicious benefits.

5. When Kāma was delighted after taking a wife to himself, when Sandhyā had gone to perform penance and when others had also left, what happened ?

Sūta said:—

6. On hearing the words of that sage of magnanimous soul, Brahmā became more pleased and spoke as follows:

241. The sage Vasiṣṭha begot 100 sons—Śakti and others, on his wife Arundhatī, here identified with Sandhyā. See Kū. P 1.19.23 : “Arundhatyām Vasiṣṭhastu Sūtān utpādayac chatam”. There a slightly different Version in Mat. 200 and 201 Arundhatyām Vasiṣṭhas tu Śaktim Utpādayat Sutam. See AIHT. P. 204.