

*Brahmā said :—*

14. O celestial sage, in the manner laid down in the Vedas he performed the purificatory rites for the son of Śiva.

15. Śiva's son, the cause of great enjoyment and protection, was glad and conferred divine wisdom on the sage.

16. The son of Agni made Viśvāmitra his priest. From that time onwards he became a great brahmin and an expert in divine sports of various sorts.

17. O sage, the very first sport that he performed thus has been narrated to you by me. O dear, listen to another sport of his with wonder. I shall narrate it to you.

18-19. At that time he was known as white in colour. Agni went there and seeing his son who was divine and very holy called him "O dear son." Agni embraced and kissed him too. He gave him a miraculous weapon, spear.

20 Guha took the spear and ascended the peak. He hit the peak with his spear and the peak fell down.

21. Ten thousand billions of heroic demons came there to attack him but were killed on being hit with the spear.

22. There was great hue and cry. The Earth, the mountains and the three worlds quaked. Indra the lord of gods came there.

23. With his thunderbolt he hit on his right side. A person named "Śākha"<sup>136</sup> of great strength came out of that side.

24. Śakra struck him again with his thunderbolt on his left side. Another strong person named Viśākha came out of that side.

25. Then Indra struck his heart with his thunderbolt. Another person very powerful like him named Naigama came out.

136. Śākha, Viśākha and Naigama are the three brothers of Kumāra. According to ŚP. they are his very self. SP. RS. iv. 23-25.

V.S. Agrawal gives quite a different interpretation. According to him Kumāra is the symbol of the life-principle manifesting in every individual. Kṛttikās are the six yogic cakras located in the human body in the golden reed. Kumāra who is born in this six-jointed single reed is called (i) Kārttikeya and (ii) Śākha. The life-principle then branches out in the form of five gross elements and the mind which together are called (iii) Viśākha. As the popular God of the merchant community Kumāra is called (iv) Naigama or Naigameya.