

for the destruction of misery. Thereupon He saw His imperishable real form.

12. Thus Śiva remained for a long time eliminating the three attributes, and unaffected by aberrations. The lord Himself, the controller of illusion remained in the state of the Supreme Brahman.

13. Then He gave up trance. Many years elapsed. What happened thereafter, I shall now recount to you.

14. The drops of sweat caused by exhaustion fell on the Earth from the lord's forehead and took the shape of a child immediately.

15. O sage, the child was tawny-coloured and had four arms. He was comely in features. His brilliance was supermundane and unbearable to others.

16. Like a common child he cried in front of the Great lord who was engaged in worldly activities.

17. Afraid of Śiva, the Earth pondered deeply over it and appeared before him in the guise of a good lady.

18. She lifted up the child immediately and held him to her chest. Lovingly she suckled the child with her excellent breast milk that flowed over her body.

19. She kissed the child's face lovingly and petted him smilingly. In the absence of Satī she herself acted as his mother in the interest of lord Śiva.

20. Śiva knew that she was the Earth. Śiva, the cause of protection and enjoyment, the immanent soul, on seeing her activities became contented and eagerly said to her laughingly.

21. "O Earth, you are blessed. Rear this child of mine lovingly, born of my glittering drops of sweat over you.

22. Although the child is born of the sweat of my body, O Earth, he will be famous in the world after your name. He will be a bestower of pleasures and will be free from the three distresses always.

23. This boy of yours will be a bestower of lands and will have good qualities. He will make me too happy. Accept him with pleasure".

*Brahmā said :—*

24. After saying this He stopped. He was a bit