

57. O Rāma, on hearing those words of Śiva, my mind became suspicious and at his bidding I desired to test your divinity.

58. O Rāma, I have realised your Viṣṇuism. I have seen your over-all lordship. I am now free from doubts. But, still, O intelligent one, please listen to this.

59. How is it that you became worthy of being saluted by him? Please tell me the truth. Make me free from doubt. Thus you shall be happy.

Brahmā said:—

60. On hearing her words Rāma became happy, his eyes shining with brilliance. He thought upon his lord Śiva. Emotions of love swelled in his heart.

61. O sage, without the specific permission of Śatī he did not go near Śiva. Describing his greatness Rāma spoke to Śatī again.

CHAPTER TWENTYFIVE

(Separation of Śatī and Śiva)

Rāma said:—

1-2. O Goddess, formerly once, Śiva, the creator supreme, called Viśvakarman²⁹⁵ to His highest region. He made him erect a large hall of great beauty in His cowshed, and an exquisite throne there.

3. Śiva, caused Viśvakarman to make an excellent, divine, wonderful umbrella for warding off obstacles.

4-5. He invited Indra and other gods, the Siddhas, Gandharvas, Nāgas, Upadeśas and Āgamas²⁹⁶, Brahmā with his sons, the sages and the celestial goddesses and nymphs who came there with various articles.

295. In the Purāṇas Viśvakarman is invested with the powers and offices of the Vedic Tvaṣṭṛ. He is the great architect, executor of handicrafts, the builder of great cities. He is the son of Prabhāsa, the eighth Vasu, by his wife Yogasiddhā.

296. The Upadeśas (instructions) and the Āgamas (scriptures) are personified. They refer to the persons who impart instructions and are well versed in the scriptures.