

sage, Nārada, pursuing his attempt to help the gods departed from there by the aerial path.

CHAPTER NINETEEN

(*Jalandhara's emissary to Śiva*)

Vyāsa said:—

1. O omniscient Sanatkumāra, what did the king of Daityas do after the departure of Nārada to heaven? Please narrate to me in detail.

Sanatkumāra said:—

2. When Nārada departed to heaven after taking leave of the Daitya, the king of Daityas who had heard of the exquisite beauty of Pārvatī became harassed with pangs of love.

3. The deluded Daitya, Jalandhara, who had lost clear thinking, being swayed by Time (the annihilator) called his messenger Rāhu.

4. The infatuated son of the ocean, Jalandhara, addressed him politely with these words.

Jalandhara said:—

5. O Rāhu of great intellect, most excellent of my emissaries, go to the mountain Kailāsa, O accomplisher of all activities.

6. A sage and a Yogin named Śiva lives there. He has matted locks of hair. He is detached. He has controlled his senses. His body is smeared with ashes.

7. O messenger, you shall go there and tell the detached Yogin Śiva with matted locks of hair, fearlessly.

8. 'O Yogin, ocean of mercy, of what avail is an exquisitely beautiful wife to you who stay in the jungle attended by ghosts, goblins, spirits and other beings?

9. O Yogin, this state of affairs is no good in a world with me as the Ruler. Hence you give up your wife, the most excellent lady, to me, the enjoyer of all excellent things.