

30. At the bidding of Brahmā and Viṣṇu the chariot and its adjuncts were created by the intelligent Viśvakarman.*

CHAPTER NINE

(Śiva's campaign)

Sanatkumāra said:—

1. Brahmā handed over that divine chariot of various wonderful features to Śiva after yoking the Vedas as the horses.

2. After dedicating the same to Śiva, he requested Śiva the lord of the gods, approved by Viṣṇu and other gods to mount the chariot.

3. The great lord Śiva identifying himself with all the gods got into that chariot that had various scaffoldings attached to it.

4. He was then eulogised by the gods, Gandharvas, serpents, sages, Viṣṇu, Brahmā and the guardians of the quarters.

5-6. Śiva, the granter of boons, surrounded by the groups of damsels, experts in music, shone well. Glancing at the charioteer when he mounted the chariot concocted with everything in the world, the horses constituted by the Vedas fell headlong to the ground.

7. The earth quaked. The mountains became tremulous. Śeṣa, unable to bear his weight, became distressed and soon began to tremble.

8. Lord Viṣṇu assumed the form of a lordly bull and went under the chariot. He lifted it up and steadied it for a short while.

9. But in another instant, unable to bear the weighty splendour of lord Śiva seated in the chariot, the lordly bull had to kneel down and crawl on the ground.

10-12. But the lord touched the bridle and steadied the horses. Then Brahmā seated in the excellent chariot drove the excellent chariot with the velocity of mind and wind, at the bidding of the lord towards the three cities of the valiant

*On the construction of the Cosmic Chariot compare Matsya P. Ch. 133