

tive abodes and rejoiced. The brahmins too in great delight returned the way they came.

47-48. He who reads this sacred narrative about the origin of the lord of the tiger, hears, narrates or teaches this shall obtain all desires. After death he will attain salvation becoming free of all miseries.

49. This narrative is incomparable as it contains the nectar-like words of the divine sports of Śiva. It is conducive to the attainment of heaven, fame and longevity. It increases sons and grandsons.

50. It yields great devotion and bliss. It is auspicious and increases the pleasure of Śiva. It yields supreme knowledge. It is beautiful and removes all aberrations.

CHAPTER FIFTYNINE

(Vidala and Utpala are slain)

Sanatkumāra said:—

1. O Vyāsa, listen with pleasure to the story of the great lord how he killed through his beloved a Daitya whom he indicated by a sign.

2. Formerly there were two great Daityas—Vidala and Utpala. They were great heroes, puffed up by the boon from Brahmā that they could not be slain by a man.

3. O Brahmin, the gods had been defeated in the battle by the two Daityas who by the strength of their arms considered the people of the three worlds as insignificant as the blade of grass.

4. Defeated by them, the gods sought refuge in Brahmā. After bowing to him duly they submitted to him respectfully.

5-6. On hearing their account Brahmā said. "They will surely be slain by the goddess. Be bold. Remember Śiva and Pārvatī respectfully. Śiva is auspicious, benevolent favourably disposed to his devotees. The supreme god will bring about welfare ere long."