

archers they are greatly distressed. They seem to be roaming about in the forest.

33. How is it that Thou becomest highly delighted and behavest like a devotee on seeing the elder of the two who resembles a blue lotus (in complexion) ?

34. O lord Śiva, may this doubt of mine be kindly heard. O lord, the kneeling down of the master at the feet of a servant is not quite befitting.

*Brahmā said :—*

35. The great Goddess Satī the primordial Śakti, put this question to Śiva on being deluded by Śiva's illusion.

36. On hearing these words of Satī, lord Śiva laughed and said to Satī. He was shrewd in his divine sports.

*Lord Śiva said :*

37. "O Goddess Satī, listen with pleasure. I shall truly explain it. There is no deception. I bowed thus with respect due to the power of the boon (granted by me).

38. O Goddess, they are two brothers Rāma and Lakṣmaṇa. They are heroic, intelligent sons of Daśaratha, born of the solar dynasty.

39. The fair-complexioned one is the younger brother Lakṣmaṇa. He is the partial incarnation of Śeṣa. The elder one is the complete incarnation of Viṣṇu. He is called Rāma. He is incapable of being harassed.

40. The lord has incarnated on the Earth for our welfare and the protection of the good." Saying thus Śiva, the lord, who causes prosperity to his votaries stopped.

41. Even after hearing these words of Śiva, her mind was not convinced. Powerful indeed is Śiva's Māyā capable of deluding even the three worlds.

42. On realising that her mind was not convinced, Śiva, the eternal lord, who is shrewd in the divine sports which He indulges in, spoke these words:—

*Śiva said :*

43. O Goddess, if your mind is not convinced, listen to my words. You can test the divinity of Rāma yourself, using your own intelligence.