

CHAPTER FOURTEEN

(The Birth of Tāraka and Vajrāṅga and their Penance)

Nārada said:—

1. O Brahmā, great devotee of Śiva and disciple of Viṣṇu, this great story of Śivā and Śiva has been narrated very well by you.

2. Who was this Tāraka demon, O Brahmā, by whom the gods were harassed. Whose son was he ? Narrate his story with reference to Śiva.

3. How did Śiva of full control reduce Kāma to ashes ? Please narrate that too with pleasure. The story of the lord is indeed wonderful.

4. How did Śivā perform the severe penance for the sake of happiness ? How did the primordial energy who is greater than the universe secure Śiva as her husband ?

5. O great scholar, narrate all these complete in every detail to me, your son, who has dedicated his soul to Śiva and who has developed full faith in Him.

Brahmā said:—

6. O celestial sage, of great intellect, O foremost of my sons, whose sacred rites are laudable, I explain the entire story after thinking on Śiva. Listen.

7. O Nārada, first of all, you hear the birth of Tāraka himself, to secure whose death great effort was made by the gods depending on Śiva.

8. My son Marīci begot Kaśyapa who married thirteen daughters of Dakṣa.

9. The eldest of them Diti bore two sons: Hiraṇyakaśipu the elder and Hiraṇyākṣa the younger.

10. When these two began to harass the gods, Viṣṇu assumed the forms of Man-lion and Boar and killed them. Then the gods became fearless and happy.

11. The distressed Diti sought refuge in Kaśyapa and and serving him with devotion and observing the sacred rites she conceived.

12. On coming to know of it, Indra entered her womb forcibly and cut it off many a time with his thunderbolt.