

universe, the Garuḍa-bannered lord bowed to Pārvatī bending his neck and joining his palms in reverence and spoke.

Viṣṇu said:—

48. O mother, by your favour that incident is known to me. What you shall be pleased to commend I shall perform with your permission.

Sanatkumāra said:—

49. On hearing the words of Viṣṇu, Pārvatī said again. The mother of the universe desired to teach Viṣṇu the policy based on Dharma.

Pārvatī said :—

50. He himself has shown the path. Know that to be the way in the same manner. At my bidding, make the chastity of his wife violated.

51. O Viṣṇu, that great Daitya cannot be killed otherwise. In the earth there is no other virtue equal to chastity.

Sanatkumāra said :—

52. On hearing this command and accepting it with lowered head, Viṣṇu immediately went to the city of Jalandhara for practising deception.

CHAPTER TWENTYTHREE

(Outraging the modesty of Vṛndā)

Vyāsa said :—

1. O omniscient Sanatkumāra, please narrate, O eloquent one, what did Viṣṇu do there ? How did she err from her virtue ?

Sanatkumāra said :—

2. After going to the city of Jalandhara, Viṣṇu thought of violating the chastity of Vṛndā.