

should consider a death like this conducive to glory in due course.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

55. On hearing his words, lord Śiva, the storehouse of mercy, laughed and replied to Gajāśura, the son of Mahiṣa.

*Lord Śiva said:—*

56. O Gajāśura, O excellent Dānava, O depository of great valour, O well-intentioned one, I am delighted. Choose the boon favourable to you.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

57. On hearing the words of lord Śiva, the granter of boons, the lord of Dānavas, the delighted Gajāśura replied.

*Gajāśura said:—*

58. O nude one, if you are delighted, O lord Śiva, wear this hide of mine sanctified by the fire of your trident.

59. It is of your size, it is gentle to the touch, it has been kept as a stake in the battlefield, it is worth seeing, it is of divine nature and it is always pleasing.

60. Let it ever emit an agreeable smell, let it be soft for ever, let it be ever free from dirt, let it be your best ornament always.

61. O lord, even after being scorched by the flames of the fire of penance for a long time, this hide was not burnt, hence it is the storehouse of holy fragrance.

62. O nude one, if my hide is not meritorious how did it get into contact with your limbs in the battlefield?

63. O Śiva, if you are satisfied, please grant me another boon. Beginning from today let your name be Kṛttivāśas (one clad in elephant-hide).

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

64. On hearing his words, Śiva who is favourably disposed to his devotees, was pleased and replied to Gajāśura, the son of Mahiṣa “Let it be so”.