

65. Lord Śiva, the favourite of his devotees, becoming delighted spoke again to the Dānava Gajāsura whose mind had been purified by devotion.

*Lord Śiva said:—*

66. “In this holy place, a means to the achievement of liberation, let your meritorious body become phallic image yielding liberation to all.

67. It will be the foremost of all phallic images yielding salvation, destroying great sins and named “Kṛttivāseśvara”.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

68. After saying this Śiva, the lord of the gods, accepted the hide of Gajāsura and wore it.

69. O great sage, there was a great jubilation on that day. All the people staying at Kāśī and the Pramathas were delighted.

70. Viṣṇu, Brahmā and other gods were delighted in their minds. With palms joined in reverence they bowed to lord Śiva and eulogised him.

71. When Gajāsura the lord of the Dānavas, and the son of Mahiṣa was killed, the gods returned to their original place and the universe attained normalcy.

72. Thus I have narrated to you the story of Śiva which shows his affection to his devotees, which is conducive to the attainment of heaven, fame and longevity and which increases wealth and food-grains.

73. He who listens to this with devotion, or narrates this observing pure rites, enjoys great happiness and attains salvation, the greatest bliss hereafter.