

worldly conventions, Himavat awaited eagerly for the arrival of Śiva.

40. Thus, O divine sage, I have narrated the pleasing story of Himavat entirely. What else do you wish to hear ?

CHAPTER THIRTYNINE

(The gods arrive at Kailāsa on invitation and Śiva prepares to start)

Nārada said :—

1. O dear father Brahmā, O intelligent disciple of Viṣṇu, obeisance be to you. O merciful one, this wonderful story has been heard by us from you.

2. Now I wish to hear the story of the auspicious marriage of the moon-crested lord that dispels all sins.

3. What did lord Śiva do on receiving the auspicious letter of betrothal. Please narrate that story of Śiva, the supreme soul.

Brahmā said :—

4. Dear child of great intellect, listen to the glory of Śiva, what lord Śiva did on receiving the auspicious letter.

5. On reading the auspicious letter with joy, Śiva laughed in delight. The lord honoured them duly.

6. Causing the letter to be read aloud, He duly accepted the proposal. Honouring the messengers He informed them.

7. He told the sages—“Every thing is auspicious and well done. All of you shall grace the celebration of my marriage. The marriage proposal has been accepted by me”.

8. On hearing these words of Śiva, they were delighted. After bowing to and circumambulating Him they returned joyful of their great luck and grace.

9. Then Śiva, the lord of the gods, the lord indulging