

11. O dear, why did Śiva abandon His wife who was to Him dearer than his life ? It looks rather strange. Hence please explain.

12. Wherefore did your son Dakṣa disrespect Śiva at the time of sacrifice ? How did she abandon her body at the sacrifice of her father ?

13. What happened after that ? What did Śiva do ? Please explain everything to me. I am eager to listen to it.

Brahmā said :—

14. O dear Nārada, of great intellect, the most excellent of my sons, listen with pleasure, along with the sages, to the story of the moon-crested lord.

15. After bowing to lord Śiva who is the supreme Brahman and who is served by Viṣṇu and others, I begin to explain and narrate His story of wonderful significance.

16. Everything is a sport of Śiva. The lord indulges in many divine sports. He is independent and undecaying. Satī too is like that.

17-18. Otherwise, O sage, who can perform such wonderful deeds ? Lord Śiva alone is the Supreme soul and the Supreme Brahman whom we all worship—I, Viṣṇu, all the devas, sages, the noble-souled Siddhas like Sanaka²⁹² and others.

19. O dear one, Śiva is that lord whose glory is sung for ever by Śeṣa²⁹³ with great pleasure but is never exhausted.

20. The erroneous perception of this visible world is due to His own sports. There none can be blamed. The all-pervasive lord is the inducer.

21. Once Śiva accompanied by Satī and seated on His Bull wandered over the Earth, in one of his sportive activities.

22. Wandering over the ocean-girt Earth He reached

292. Here the reference is to the mind-born sons of Brahmā—Sanaka, Sananda, Sanātana and Sanat who are called Siddhas or semi-divine beings of great purity and holiness.

293. Śeṣa, a thousand-headed serpent, is the emblem of eternity. He is the son of Kadru and the King of the Nāgas or snakes inhabiting Pātāla.