

were surprised to see the wonderful abode. The delighted Śiva reached the outskirts of the city accompanied by Viṣṇu and others as well as his delighted Gaṇas.

CHAPTER FORTYTWO

(Description of the meeting of the lord and the mountain)

Brahmā said :—

1. On hearing that the all-pervading Śiva had come very near his city, the lord of mountains Himavat rejoiced much.

2. Then, gathering all the requisite things he sent mountains and the brahmins to welcome Śiva.

3. With his mind melting with devotion and joyously praising his luck, the mountain personally went to see Śiva as dear as the very vital air.

4. On seeing the army of the gods Himavat was struck with wonder. Considering himself blessed he appeared in front of them.

5. The gods too were struck with wonder on seeing his army. The gods and the mountains became delighted.

6. The vast army of the mountains and the gods, O sage, on coming together shone like the eastern and western oceans in juxtaposition.

7. Meeting each other, the gods and the mountains considered themselves blessed. They were greatly delighted.

8. Seeing Śiva in front, Himavat bowed to Him. The mountains and the brahmins bowed to Sadāśiva.

9-14. He was seated on his bull, fully bedecked in ornaments and beaming in the face. The beauty of his divine person illuminated the quarters. His body shone in the delicate silken garments. His crown was lustrous with the gems set in it. He was smiling shedding pure brilliance everywhere. Serpents had transformed themselves into ornaments on his body. He had a wonderful lustre and a divine refulgence. Gods served him with chowries in their