

who carried out the will of Śiva replied again to the mountain after delighting him with your words.

Nārada said:—

26. O dear, O great mountain, O father of Pārvatī, listen to my words. After hearing them, give your daughter to Śiva.

27. Know that the divine sound alone is the gotra, and family of Śiva in His divine form, who assumes forms in His divine sport.

28. Śiva is identical with Nāda.¹⁰⁹ And Nāda is identical with Śiva. There is no difference between the two—Nāda and Śiva.

29. O lord of mountains, Nāda being prior to Śiva in His sportive, attributive form, Nāda is the most excellent of all.

30. Hence, O Himācala, mentally urged by Śiva, the lord of all, I played upon my lute.

Brahmā said:—

31. O sage, on hearing your words, Himavat, the lord of mountains was satisfied and the bewilderment in his mind vanished.

32. Then Viṣṇu, the other gods and the sages said "Well done, Well done". They were freed of all bewilderment.

33. The shrewd people realised the majesty of lord Śiva. They were pleasantly surprised and began to say to one another.

34. "Śiva is of the form of knowledge. He is greater than the greatest. It is at His bidding that the vast universe is born. He is of independent movement. He can be realised by the greatest concentration. He, the lord of the three worlds, is now seen by us."

35. Then Meru and the excellent mountains became agitated and simultaneously spoke to Himavat, the lord of mountains.

¹⁰⁹. Nāda is a mystical sound identical with Śiva which symbolises his mystical origin.