

shaken by his blows they gathered together and spoke to one another.

*The gods and Gaṇas said:—*

53. "What shall be done? Where should we go? The ten directions have become visible. He is whirling the iron club right and left."

*Brahmā said:—*

54-55. In the meantime the excellent nymphs came there with flowers and sandal paste in their hands. You and other gods who were eager to witness the fight came there. O excellent sage, the excellent pathway of the firmament was entirely filled by them.

56. Seeing the battle they were much surprised. Such a battle had never been witnessed by them before.

57. The earth with all the oceans quaked. As a result of the violent battle even mountains fell down.

58. The sky whirled with the planets and the stars. Everything was agitated. The gods fled. The Gaṇas too did likewise.

59. The valorous sixfaced deity alone did not flee. The great warrior stopped everyone and stood in front.

60. But the Gaṇas fought in vain with the two Śaktis. The weapons of the gods and the Gaṇas were broken and hence withdrawn by them.

61. Those that tarried went to Śiva. All the gods and Gaṇas fled.

62. Those who went in a body to Śiva bowed to him again and again and asked Śiva immediately "O lord who is that excellent Gaṇa?"

63. We have heard that battles used to be fought formerly. Even now many battles are being fought. But never was such a battle seen or heard.

64. O lord, let this be pondered over a little. Otherwise no victory is possible. O lord, you alone are the saviour of the universe. There is no doubt about it."

*Brahmā said:—*

65. On hearing their words, the furious Rudra became