

69. Śatī and Śiva are united together like words and their meanings<sup>297</sup>. Only if they wish, can their separation be even imagined.

## CHAPTER TWENTYSIX

*(The cause of estrangement between Dakṣa and Śiva)*

*Brahmā said :*

1. Formerly, a great sacrifice was performed by the sages and noble souls who assembled at Prayāga<sup>298</sup>.

2. Siddhas, Sanaka and others, the celestial sages, devas with Prajāpatis and men of perfect knowledge who had realised the Brahman attended the function.

3. I too attended the same along with my followers. All the Āgamas and Nigamas in brilliant embodied forms were present with me.

4. The assembly was variegated and of diverse character. They conducted discussions on epistemology from different sacred texts with great festivities.

5. O sage, in the meantime, lord Śiva, accompanied by His attendants and Satī came there, the lord conferring benefit on the three worlds and affording them protection.

6. On seeing the lord, devas, Siddhas and sages bowed to and eulogised Him with great devotion. I too joined them.

7. At the bidding of Śiva they sat in their respective places. They were excessively delighted on seeing the lord. They explained to Him the various activities they were engaged in.

8. In the meantime, the lord Dakṣa, the lord of Prajāpatis, came there delighted by shedding lustre everywhere in the course of a casual visit.

9. After saluting me, Dakṣa sat there with my consent.

297. For the similarity of idea and expression compare Kālidāsa's Raghuvamśa I. 1.

298. Prayāga : See note No. 27 P. 35.