

RUDRA-SAMHITĀ

SECTION II

Satīkhandā

CHAPTER ONE

(Summary of Satī's life)

Nārada said:—

1. O Brahmā, thanks to Śiva's favour, you know everything. You have narrated to me the wonderful stories of Śiva and Pārvatī.

2. O lord, I am never fully satiated by hearing the great story of Śiva from your lotus-like face. I wish to hear further the same.

3-7. As explained by you, Rudra is the complete manifestation of Śiva. He is the great Lord whose abode is Kailāsa. He is a yogin of perfect control. He is worthy of being propitiated by all devas, Viṣṇu and others. He is the final goal of all good men. He is free from Dvandvas (mutually clashing opposites). The great lord never undergoes any change yet indulges in His divine sports. He became a householder again after marrying the noble lady Maṅgalā at the request of Viṣṇu when she performed penance. At first she was born of Dakṣa and later of Himālaya. How could she be the daughter of both with the same body? How did Satī²³³ become Pārvatī and attain Śiva again? O Brahmā, please explain all these and other points relating to His episode.

233. Satī, the daughter of Dakṣa, the son of Brahmā, was married to Śiva. She abandoned her body in consequence of the quarrel between her husband and father. It is said in the Purāṇas that Dakṣa instituted a sacrifice but apportioned no share to Śiva. Thereupon Satī felt insulted and entered the sacrificial fire whereupon Śiva sent hundreds and thousands of powerful Gaṇas who destroyed the sacrifice and beheaded Dakṣa. The present section narrates the story of the birth of Satī, her marriage with Śiva, their lovely sports and her tragic end at the sacrifice of her father, Dakṣa.