

CHAPTER FOUR

(*Search for Kṛttikēya and his conversation with Nandin*)

Nārada said :—

1. O lord of people, O Brahmā, O lord of gods, what happened after that ? Narrate it to me kindly besides the description of Śiva's sports.

Brahmā said :—

2. O sage, after the son of Śiva had been taken over by the Kṛttikās some time elapsed but the daughter of Himavat had no knowledge of the same.

3. Meanwhile Pārvatī beaming with her lotus like face told her husband Śiva, the lord of the gods.

Pārvatī said :—

4. O lord of the gods, listen to my auspicious words. O lord, you have been attained by me, thanks to my previous merits.

5. Although you are the most excellent among the Yogins, O lord, you became desirous of dalliance. But my dalliance with you was interrupted in the middle by the gods.

6. O lord, your semen fell on the ground and not in my womb. Where did it go ? Among the gods by whom could it have been concealed ?

7. O lord, infallible is your semen, how can it be fruitless ? Or has it developed into a child somewhere ?

Brahmā said :—

8. O great sage, on hearing the words of Pārvatī, the lord of the universe called the gods and the sages and laughingly said to them.

Lord Śiva said :—

9. O gods, listen to my words. Has Pārvatī's statement been heard by you ? Where has my unfailing semen gone ? By whom has it been concealed ?

10. If he, out of fear, falls at my feet quickly he may not be punished. If a king, competent enough, does