

CHAPTER TWENTYFOUR

(Sati's test of Rāma's divinity)

Nārada said :—

1-2. “O Brahmā, lord of subjects, of great mercy and lofty intellect, you have narrated the benevolent glory of Satī and Śiva. Now, please tell me more of their glory. What did the couple Śiva and Śivā do further, stationed on that (mountain) ?

Brahmā said:—

3. O sage, listen to the story of Satī and Śiva. Having resorted to worldly conventions they continued their sports every day.

4. Thereafter, according to a tradition, it is said that the great Goddess Satī was separated from her husband Śiva.

5. Śakti and Īśa are united for ever like a word and its meaning²⁹¹. O sage, how can a real separation of the two occur ?

6. Or inasmuch as Satī and Śiva have sportive interest, whatever they do is proper. For, they follow the conventions of the world.

7. She was forsaken by her husband at the time of her father's sacrifice. In view of the disrespect shown to Śiva she cast-off her body there.

8. She was born again as Pārvatī, daughter of the Himālayas. She performed penance for several years and attained Śiva as her husband.

Sūta said :—

9. After hearing these words of Brahmā, Nārada asked the Creator about the glory of Śivā and Śiva.

Nārada said :—

10. O Brahmā, disciple of Viṣṇu, of great fortune, please explain in detail the story of Śivā and Śiva who followed the conventions of the world.

²⁹¹. For the similarity of idea and expression compare Kālidāsa's Raghuvamśa 1.1. For the repetition of the same see ŚP. RS II. 25. 69.