

27. At the time of dissolution how does He remain ? How is He, the benefactor of the world, propitiated ?

28. O Brahmā, when propitiated what benefit does He bestow on His devotees and on others ? Please satisfy me on all these enquiries

29. I have heard that the lord becomes delighted immediately. The merciful Great God cannot bear the stress and strain of His devotees.¹⁸⁵

30. The three deities Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Maheśa are born as parts of Śiva. Maheśa, having all the parts of Śiva, is Śiva Himself.

31. Please tell me all about His manifestation and especially His exploits. O lord, please narrate the manifestation of Umā and her marriage.

32. Their domestic life, especially their great divine sports and other things which are worthy of mention should be narrated to me, O sinless one.

33. Pārvati's birth and her marriage as well as Guha's birth shall be narrated in detail, O lord of people.

34. O lord of universe, this I have heard from many, before, but I am not satisfied. Hence I have sought refuge in you. Please have mercy on me.

35. On hearing these words of Nārada his own son, Brahmā, the grandfather of the world, said this.

CHAPTER SIX

(Description of the nature of Mahāpralaya and the origin of Viṣṇu)

Brahmā said:—

1. O Brahmin, foremost among the celestial beings, a good matter has been enquired into by you rendering service to the worlds and desiring their benefit.

2. I shall explain to you the wholesome and salutary

¹⁸⁵. Verses 29-32 on this page are the same as verses 16-19 in RSI.
Ch. 1.