

*Brahmā said : —*

46. When the lord of Devas spoke thus furiously, all the people including Devas, sages and human beings trembled.

47. There was a piteous cry of distress. Everywhere tense suspense prevailed. Then I who wanted to delude Him was myself deluded.

48. Then the intelligent Viṣṇu, the great favourite of Śiva and very clever in managing all affairs bowed down and lauded Rudra who spoke as before.

49. Standing in front of Him and singing various songs of praise to Śiva who is favourably disposed towards His devotees He prevented Him and said thus :

*Viṣṇu said :—*

50. O lord Śiva, do not kill Brahmā, the creator and lord of the worlds. He has sought refuge in you and you are reputed to be favourably disposed to those who seek refuge in you.

51. O lord, I am a great favourite of yours and am called the chief of Devotees. Keeping my submission in mind be merciful towards me.

52. O lord, please hear another statement of mine of very great significance. You must consider it, O lord Śiva, being merciful to me.

53. O Śiva, this four-faced deity has manifested himself to create the subjects. If he were killed, there will be none to create the subjects.

54. O lord, we three are carrying out the functions of creation, sustenance and dissolution repeatedly as you bid us in the form of Śiva.

55. O Śiva, if he is killed who will carry out your directives ? Hence O lord, the annihilator, you shall not kill this creator.

56. O lord, it was by him that Satī the daughter of Dakṣa was fixed up as your wife by good means.

*Brahmā said :—*

57. On hearing this entreaty of Viṣṇu, Śiva of steady resolve proclaimed in reply making everyone hear.