

CHAPTER NINE

(Description of Śivatattva)

Brahmā said :—

1. On hearing his own eulogy from the mouth of Viṣṇu, the delighted Śiva, the store-house of kindness, revealed Himself to us along with his consort.

2-3. He had five faces and three eyes, and the crescent moon on his forehead. He wore matted hair. He was white-complexioned and had wide eyes. His body had been dusted with the ashes. He had ten arms. His neck was blue in colour. He was bedecked with all ornaments. He was very handsome with respect to every limb. Three ash-lines marked His forehead.

4. On seeing lord Śiva accompanied by His beautiful consort, Viṣṇu along with me eulogised Him again with appropriate words.

5-6. Śiva, the merciful, who was delighted breathed the Vedas into Viṣṇu and conferred Perfect Knowledge on him, the secret of the supreme Ātman. O sage, thereafter, out of sympathy, the supreme Ātman conferred these on me too.

7. After receiving the Vedas, Viṣṇu was satisfied and bowing to Him with palms joined in reverence along with me, he asked the lord Śiva.

Viṣṇu said :—

8. “O Lord, How are you propitiated ? How shall I worship you, O lord ? How shall I meditate on you ? How are you impressed by any one ?

9. O Great God, tell us what at Thy bidding shall we ever do ? Please command us, O Śiva, do this to favour us.

10. O Great lord, be merciful to tell us all these things. O Śiva, we are your followers. Taking this into mind, you will enlighten us on these and other similar points too.

Brahmā said :—

11. On hearing these words, the lord Śiva was delighted. The merciful lord then spoke lovingly.