

43. O dear one, Viṣṇu and others taking leave of the great lord delightedly returned to their respective places. They were duly honoured and their faces beamed with pleasure.

CHAPTER FIFTYTWO

(The bridegroom's party is fed and Śiva retires to bed)

Brahmā said:—

1. O dear one, then the clever chief of mountains caused suitable arrangements to be made in the courtyard for feeding the visitors.

2. He caused the ground to be swept clean and scrubbed well. Different kinds of fragrant stuffs were used to make the place attractive and pleasing.

3. Then the mountain invited all the gods and others along with the lord for taking food, through his sons and others.

4. O sage, on hearing the invitation of the mountain, the lord accompanied by Viṣṇu, the gods and others went gladly to take His meal.

5. The mountain received the lord and all those duly and made them sit in good seats in the inner apartment.

6. After serving sweet and well-cooked delicious food-stuffs, he requested them to take their food with palms joined in reverence and head bent down.

7. Then duly honoured, Viṣṇu and other gods keeping Sadāśiva at the head took their food.

8. They sat in rows together, took their food simultaneously laughing (and talking).

9. Nandin, Bhṛṅgi, Virabhadra and his Gaṇas took their meals separately. The fortunate people took food enthusiastically.

10. The gods, with Indra, the guardians of the quarters all fortunate and brilliant took their food cracking jokes and talking.

11. The sages and brahmins, Bhṛṅgu and other sages sat in separate rows and took their food with pleasure.