

CHAPTER TWENTYONE

(*The Dalliance of Satī and Śiva*)

Nārada said :—

1. O dear, your words are perfect inasmuch as you are omniscient, sinless one. The wonderfully auspicious story of Śivā and Śiva has been heard by us.

2. We have heard the detailed account of their marriage that destroys delusions, makes one endowed with true knowledge and which is excellently auspicious.

3. I wish to know more of the auspicious story of Śivā and Śiva. Hence having unequalled consideration for me, O intelligent one, please narrate the same.

Brahmā said :—

4. Your enquiries for the history of the merciful lord are pursued well, since you have prompted me to narrate the divine sports of Śiva.

5. Know from me what Śiva did with pleasure on reaching His abode after His marriage with goddess Satī, Dakṣa's daughter and the mother of the three worlds.

6. O celestial sage, after reaching His gay abode along with His Gaṇas, Śiva descended from His Bull with great pleasure.

7. O celestial sage, entering His apartment in a befitting manner, along with Satī, Śiva assuming worldly conventions rejoiced very much.

8. Then after approaching Satī, Śiva sent out His attendants—Nandin and others, from the cave in the mountain.

9. Following the manner of the people of the world, the merciful lord spoke these affable and courteous words to Nandin and others.

Lord Śiva said :—

10. O my attendants, with minds respectfully concentrated in thinking upon me, you shall come to me only when I remember you.

11. When Śiva said like this, Nandin and others who