

in his presence. Hari, taking it to be true, made obeisance to Brahmā. He worshipped Brahmā with all the sixteen means of service and homage.⁴²

29. The Lord taking up a visible form in order to chastise Brahmā who practised trickery, came out of the column of fire. On seeing the lord, Viṣṇu stood up and with his hands shaking with fear caught hold of the lord's feet.

30. It is out of ignorance and delusion about you whose body is without a beginning or an end that we indulged in this quest prompted by our own desire. Hence O, Sympathetic Being, forgive us for our fault. In fact, it is but another form of your divine sport.

Īśvara said

31. "O dear Hari, I am pleased with you, because you strictly adhered to truth in spite of your desire to be a lord. Hence among the general public you will have a footing equal to mine. You will be honoured too likewise.

32. Hereafter you will be separate from me having separate temple, installation of idols, festivals and worship."

33. Thus, formerly, the lord was delighted by the truthfulness of Hari and offered him a footing equal to his own even as the assembly of the devas was witnessing the same.

CHAPTER EIGHT

(Śiva's forgiveness of Brahmā)

Nandikeśvara said :—

1. Mahādeva then created a wonderful person, Bhairava, from the middle of his brows to quell the pride of Brahmā.

2. This Bhairava knelt before the lord in the battle-field

42. Ṣoḍaśopacāra: The sixteen acts of homage to a deity are mentioned in ŚP 11. 25-29. They are differently enumerated elsewhere : आसनं स्वागतं पाद्यमर्घ्यमाचमनीयकम् । मधुपर्काचमस्नानं वसनाभरणानि च । गन्धपुष्पे धूपदीपौ नैवेद्यं वन्दनं तथा । Tantrasāra enumerates 64 Upacāras.