

50. O sage, thus the great queen Vṛndā the excellent daughter of Kālanemi attained great salvation, thanks to the power of her chastity.

51. Viṣṇu thought of Vṛndā remorsefully. The smoke and dust from her funeral pyre covered his face. He stood there itself without any peace of mind though urged and consoled by hosts of gods and Siddhas.

CHAPTER TWENTYFOUR

(Jalandhara is slain)

1. O excellent son of Brahmā, O intelligent one, you have narrated a wonderful story. What happened thereafter in the battle? How was the Asura killed? Please narrate.

Sanatkumāra said:—

2. Unable to see Pārvatī, the king of Daityas returned to the battle ground. The groups of deceptive Gandharvas vanished. It was only then that the bull-bannered deity regained awareness of the surroundings.

3. On seeing the illusion vanished, Śiva woke up. Following the way of the world, the annihilator became very furious.

4. Then Śiva was a bit surprised in the mind. He approached Jalandhara angrily in order to fight with him. On seeing Śiva approaching again, the Asura showered him with arrows.

5. Lord Śiva immediately split the cluster of arrows discharged by the powerful Jalandhara by means of his own excellent arrows. This was not surprising for the annihilator of the three worlds.

6. Seeing Śiva exhibiting wonderful feats of valour, Jalandhara created Pārvatī by means of his illusion in order to delude Śiva.

7. Śiva saw Pārvatī tied to the chariot and crying.