

CHAPTER THIRTY

(Prayer to the lord of gods)

Sanatkumāra said:—

1-2. O Vyāsa, starting then itself along with Brahmā, Viṣṇu, the lord of Lakṣmī, went to Śivaloka, highly divine, propless and unearthly. He was glad and his face beamed with pleasure. The region was strewn over with many gems. It was highly brilliant.

3-4. The first entrance was of variegated nature with many Gaṇas standing there. It was resplendent, lofty and beautiful. After reaching it he saw the gatekeepers seated on gem-set thrones. They had gem-set ornaments and white garments.

5. They had five faces, three eyes and fair handsome bodies. They were trident-bearing heroes shining with Bhasma and Rudrākṣa.

6. Both Brahmā and Viṣṇu bowed to them humbly and told them that they wanted to see the lord.

7. They permitted them to enter. They saw another door very beautiful, variegated and very brilliant.

8. They informed the gatekeeper of their desire to approach the lord. Permitted by them they entered and saw another door.

9. Thus Brahmā entered through fifteen doors and reached the main threshold. He saw Nandin.

10. After bowing to and eulogising Nandin as Brahmā did before, Viṣṇu was permitted by Nandin and he entered joyously.

11. Going in, they saw the grand assembly chamber of Śiva, highly decorated and thronged by his attendants with lustrous bodies.

12. The attendants had similar forms with lord Śiva. They had ten arms, five faces, three eyes and blue necks. They had auspicious lustre and were brilliant.

13. They were bedecked in ornaments set with gems. They wore Rudrākṣas. They had smeared themselves with the ashes. The chamber was square in shape and beautiful like the lunar sphere.