

terrible, to the terrible-eyed, to great lord and to the lord of the three worlds.

3. You are the lord of worlds; you are the father, the mother and the lord; you are Śiva the benefactor. You are particularly compassionate.

4. You are the creator of all the worlds; O lord, you shall save us. O great God, except you who else is competent to destroy misery ?

*Brahmā said :—*

5. On hearing these words of the gods, Nandikeśvara who was endowed with great sympathy began to inform Śiva.

*Nandikeśvara said :—*

6. O foremost among the gods, Viṣṇu, other gods, the sages and Siddhas eulogise you in order to see you. They are being threatened by Asuras. Hence they seek some remedy and resort to thy feet, the seat of great fearlessness.

7. Hence, O lord of all, the sages and the gods shall be protected by you. You have been particularly mentioned as the kinsman of the distressed and favourably disposed towards your devotees.

*Brahmā said :—*

8. Śiva, who was thus informed by Nandin and who was extremely sympathetic, slowly reverted from His meditation and opened His eyes.

9. Then lord Śiva, the highly efficient great Ātman, reverted from His trance and spoke to the gods.

*Śiva said .—*

10. “O great gods, Viṣṇu, Brahmā and others, why have you come near me? Mention the reason for the same.”

*Brahmā said :—*

11. On hearing these words of Śiva, all the gods rejoiced. They looked at Viṣṇu as if to induce him to speak.

12. Then Viṣṇu, the great devotee and benefactor of