

*Brahmā said :—*

19. Cursing Viṣṇu and other gods, Pārvatī furiously told Agni who had swallowed Śiva's semen.

*Pārvatī said :—*

20. O Agni, be the devourer of everything and let your soul be afflicted. You are a fool. You do not know Śiva's fundamental principles. You have come forward to carry out the task of the gods.

21. It is neither proper nor beneficent to you to have eaten up Śiva's semen. You are a rogue, a wretched vile, paying heed to the wicked counsel of the wicked.

*Brahmā said :*

22. After cursing the fire thus, O sage, Pārvatī, the daughter of the mountain, immediately returned to her apartment along with Śiva, dissatisfied that she was.

23. O great sage, after returning she persistently pleaded with Śiva and bore a son named Gaṇeśa.

24. O sage, the details of that story I shall narrate to you later on. Now listen to the story of the birth of Guha which I am going to narrate.

25. The gods are wont to partake of the offerings of food etc. consigned to the fire in accordance with the Vedic text. Hence the gods became pregnant.

26. Unable to endure the force of the semen they became afflicted. Viṣṇu and other gods had already lost their sense at the curse of Pārvatī.

27. Then Viṣṇu and other gods were overwhelmed and scorched. In this state they sought refuge in Śiva.

28. After reaching the threshold of Śivā's apartment, the gods humbly eulogised Pārvatī and Śiva with pleasure and with palms joined in reverence.

*The gods said :—*

29. O lord of gods, O great lord, consort of Pārvatī, what has happened now? Your magical power is incapable of being transgressed.

30. We have become pregnant and also scorched by