

48. On hearing the eulogy of the gods, Śiva, the lord of all, the self-ruler was delighted. The compassionate lord then laughed.

49. Śiva the great Īśāna, the kinsman of the distressed, the goal of the good, became delighted and spoke to Viṣṇu and other important gods.

Śiva said:—

50. O Viṣṇu, O Brahmā, O gods, listen to my words with attention. I am merciful. I shall by all means protect you, the gods.

51. The lord of the three worlds is a slayer of the wicked. He is favourably disposed to his devotees. He is the creator, sustainer and annihilator of all yet free from aberrations.

52. O excellent gods, whenever you are faced with misery you shall worship me for your happiness.

Brahmā said:—

53-54. O sage, thus ordered, Viṣṇu, the other gods and the sages bowed to Śiva, Pārvatī, and Kumāra joyously, and returned to their abodes in great delight singing the pleasant glory of Śiva, Pārvatī and their son.

55. Śiva stayed on the mountain joyously along with Pārvatī, the Gaṇas and Kumāra. Lord Śiva was much pleased.

56. Thus O sage, the divine and pleasant story of Kumāra and Śiva has been narrated to you. What else do you wish to hear?

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

(The birth of Gaṇeśa)

Sūta said :—

1. On hearing the marvellously excellent story of the slayer of Tāraka thus, Nārada was highly delighted and he lovingly asked Brahmā.