

Deluded by Śiva's māyā he looked into a mirror.

56. On seeing his face like that of a monkey he became infuriated. The deluded sage cursed the two attendants.

57. Since you had mocked at me, you will become demons born of brahminical semen and of that form.

58-59. On hearing the curse, the two attendants of perfect wisdom remained silent because they knew that the sage was deluded. O brahmins, they returned to their abode and sitting there quietly went on eulogising Śiva. They considered everything as Śiva's will.

CHAPTER FOUR

Nārada goes to Vaikuṇṭha and curses Viṣṇu there)

The sages said :—

1-2. Sūta, O Sūta of great intellect, a wonderful tale has been narrated by you. Blessed indeed is the Māyā of Śiva. All mobile and immobile things depend upon it. When the two attendants of lord Rudra had left at their own will what did the infuriated Nārada, the sage disquieted by Kāma-deva, do ?

Sūta said :—

3-5. After cursing the two attendants of Śiva suitably, the sage still under the earlier delusion looked into the water and saw that his face was quite normal. It was also due to Śiva's will. He did not wake from the delusion still again due to Śiva's will. Thereupon recollecting that it might have been a deception of Hari, he became unbearably infuriated and went to Viṣṇuloka. There he angrily poured abusive words blazing like kindled fire since his wisdom had vanished due to Śiva's will.

Nārada said :—

6. O Viṣṇu, you are extremely wicked, deceptive enchanter of the world. You are unable to brook others'