

damned intellect. Although the toads and lotuses are in the same pond toads are not honoured.

Kārttikeya said:—

61. O brother, you know everything. You are perfectly wise possessing the knowledge of the past, present and future, since you are an attendant of Śiva. Hence no praise of yours is specially called for.

62. O brother, people get reconciled to whatever form of species of life they are born. Their own actions are responsible for their birth and they are satisfied.

63. The Kṛttikās are wise women of Yogic practice. They are the digits of Prakṛti. They have helped in nurturing me with their own breast milk.

64. I am their fostered son. They are my own part and parcel. I am born of Prakṛti and the semen of the lord of Prakṛti.

65. O Nandikeśvara, I am not severed from the daughter of the lord of mountains who is virtually my mother just as these ladies on the basis of virtuous rites.

66. You have been sent by Śiva. You are like a son unto Śiva. I am coming with you. I shall see the gods.

67. After saying so and hurriedly taking leave of the Kṛttikās, Kārttikeya started along with the attendants of Śiva.

CHAPTER FIVE

(Kārttikeya is crowned)

Brahmā said:—

1-2. In the meantime he saw an excellent, lustrous and wonderful chariot, made by Viśvakarman. It was a commodious with a hundred wheels. It was beautiful and had the quickness of the mind. It had been sent by Pārvatī and was surrounded by the excellent attendants of Śiva.

3. With an aching heart, Kārttikeya, born of the semen