

4-6. He was fair-complexioned, handsome in appearance, had five faces²⁶⁴ and three eyes²⁶⁵. The crescent moon adorned His forehead. He was in a joyous mood. He had four arms and His neck was blue²⁶⁶ in colour. He was holding trident and an amulet (Brahmakavaca) for protection. He was brilliant with dust. His head was comely with the celestial river Gaṅgā. He was gay in all parts of his body. He was the abode of great beauty. His face shone with the brilliance of ten million moons. His lustre matched that of ten million cupids. In every respect His features were such as appeal to all women.

7. On seeing Śiva directly in such a form she bent her head from shyness and she knelt at his feet.

8. Although He desired her to be his wife He wished to bestow on her the fruit of her penance. Thus He spoke to her in the state of her penance.

Śiva said :—

9. O daughter of Dakṣa, of good rites, I am delighted by these rites you have observed. Choose a boon. I shall grant it whatever it may be.

Brahmā said :—

10. Although Śiva, the lord of the universe, knew her desire, he said—"Choose a boon." It was because He desired to hear her speak.

11. She too, who was highly bashful, could not speak out her mind as it was covered up by bashfulness.

12. On realising that she was fully immersed in love on hearing Śiva's pleasing words, Śaṅkara who was favourably disposed to His devotees was highly pleased.

13. He repeatedly urged her "Speak out the boon you wish to choose, speak out the boon." Śiva, the immanent lord, the goal of the good was drawn to Satī by her devotion.

14-15. Somehow suppressing her bashfulness when Satī

264. On the five-faced God Śiva See Note No. 25 P. 34.

265. On the three-eyed Śiva See Note No. 147 P. 141.

266. Śiva is called the blue-necked (Nīlakaṇṭha or Śitikaṇṭha from swallowing the poison produced at the churning of the ocean.