

period of a Manvantara. Your separation from Śaṅkha cūḍa is really painful to you.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

57. After saying so, Śiva narrated the greatness of Śālagrāma stone and Tulasī, that is highly meritorious.

58. After delighting Viṣṇu and Tulasī, Śiva the benefactor of the good vanished from there and went to his abode.

59. On hearing the words of Śiva, Tulasī was delighted. She cast off that body and assumed a divine form.

60. The lord of Lakṣmī went to Vaiṣṇuṭha with her. Immediately the river Gaṇḍakī took its origin from her cast off body.

61. On its banks Viṣṇu became a mountain conferring merit on men. O sage, germs make different kinds of holes therein.

62. The pieces that fall into the water are highly meritorious. Those that remain on the dry land are known as Piṅgalas. They are harmful.

63. Thus I have narrated everything in accordance with your enquiry. The story of Śiva is meritorious and bestows all cherished desires on men.

64. This narrative has been made in detail intermingled with the greatness of Viṣṇu. It confers worldly pleasures and salvation. What is it that you wish to hear further?

## CHAPTER FORTYTWO

*(Hiraṇyākṣa is slain)*

*Nārada said:—*

1. I am not satiated by hearing the story of the moon-crested lord Śiva including the annihilation of Śaṅkhacūḍa from you even as people are not satiated by drinking nectar.