

Brahmā said :—

58. In the meantime they descended on the ground from the sky. On seeing them Himavat advanced to welcome them.

59. With palms joined in reverence he bowed to them with stooping shoulders and worshipped them with due respect and honour.

60. Desiring welfare of others, the seven sages embraced Himavat, the lord of mountains and spoke words of auspicious blessings with pleasant faces.

61. Keeping them ahead he said—"My household life is blessed". With great devotion he got and offered them seats.

62. When they were duly seated, he too sat with their permission. Then Himavat spoke to the refulgent sages :—

Himavat said :—

63-64. I am blessed. I am contented. My life is fruitful. I am the best person worthy of being seen in the three worlds. I am as pure as any of the holy centres. All this is because you, verily in lord Viṣṇu's forms, have come to my abode. Perfect ones such as you, what special purpose can there be in visiting poor persons like me?

65. Still I am your servant. Some task there may be to be entrusted to me. Mercifully may it be spoken out. May my life be fruitful.

CHAPTER THIRTYTHREE

(The appeasement of Himavat)

The sages said :—

1. Śiva is the father of the universe. Pārvatī is the mother of the universe. Hence your daughter shall be given to Śiva, the supreme soul.

2. O Hīmālaya, by this activity your life will be