

*The brahmins said:—*

35. We are saved, O, we are saved from this terrible obstacle. O lord, please bless us. O preceptor of the universe stay here alone.

36. O great lord, in this self-same form in the name of the lord of the tiger offer protection. Let this place remain sacred always.

37. Save us the dwellers in this holy centre from other mishaps too. O lord of Pārvatī, leaving the wicked ones offer fearlessness to your devotees.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

38. On hearing the words of the devotees, the moon-crested lord who is favourably disposed to the devotees said affirmatively and told the devotees again.

*Lord Śiva said:—*

39. "If any one sees me here in this form with faith, I will undoubtedly remove his torments and mishaps.

40. After hearing this story of mine and after remembering my phallic image in the heart if a man enters the battlefield he will certainly win.

41. In the meantime the gods came there along with Indra shouting slogans of victory jubilantly."

42. After bowing to Śiva with love, the gods joined their palms in reverence, drooped their shoulders and eulogised lord Śiva who is favourably disposed to his devotees.

*The gods said:—*

43. O lord Śiva, lord of the gods, remover of the distress of your devotees, be victorious. We the gods have been saved by killing this demon.

44. O fond of devotees, you shall protect them always. O lord of the gods, wicked men shall be slain by you, O lord of all.

45. On hearing these words of the gods, lord Śiva became delighted. After saying 'yes' he merged into the phallic image.

46. The gods, thus surprised returned to their respec-