

*The sages said:—*

29. O Sūta, O blessed Sūta, of great intellect and foremost among the devotees of Śiva, on hearing your most delightful words our minds have become very eager to know more.

30-31. Dear one, please tell us lovingly when this highly pleasant conversation between Brahmā and Nārada took place, wherein Śiva's glory was sung and the divine sport of Lord Śiva, destructive of worldly existence, had been discussed. What were the questions and how were they answered, please explain.

32. On hearing these words of the sages of noble mind Sūta was pleased much and narrated everything pertaining to the conversation referred to.

## CHAPTER TWO

*(Indra sends Kāmadeva to disturb the penance of Nārada)*

*Sūta said:—*

1. O brahmins, once Nārada the excellent sage, son of Brahmā was inclined to perform penance controlling himself very much.

2. There is a very beautiful cave in the Himālaya mountain near which the celestial river flows rapidly.

3. There was a great hermitage of divine splendour which was resplendent in many ways. Nārada endowed with divine vision went there to perform the penance.

4. On seeing the hermitage (very convenient for penance) the leading sage performed the penance for a long time, seated firmly and steadily, keeping silent, controlling the breath and retaining the purity of the intellect.

5. O brahmins, the sage performed meditation and contemplation wherein the realisation "I am Brahman" is generated leading to the direct perception of Brahman.

6. When the great sage Nārada was thus performing penance, the mind of Indra became excessively agitated and he trembled.