

refulgent like the sun our excellent son embellished by excellent ornaments.”

Sanatkumāra said:—

7. Thus addressed by the mother of the worlds with pleasing words, Lord Śiva was never satiated in drinking nectar of the beauty of Skanda's face.

8. He recollected the Asuras who had come (to fight and) pounded by his splendrous valour. Embracing and kissing Skanda on the head lord Śiva rejoiced much.

9. Then the mother of the universe stayed there for a while and held conversation with the lord. Afterwards the goddess, an expert in different kinds of sports stood up.

10. Then Śiva of good sports entered his apartment accompanied by Nandin and Pārvatī. He was then saluted by all the gods.

11. O sage, all the gods dispirited and worried stood on either side of the doorway of mansion of Śiva, the intelligent lord of the gods.

12. They began to mutter “What shall we do ? Where shall we go ? Who will make us happy ? Everything has happened with a “but.” We are doomed.”

13. Indra and others looked at one another's face. They were much agitated. They spoke in faltering words. They cursed their fate.

14. Some gods said “We are sinners.” Others said “We are unfortunate.” Still others said “The great Asuras are very fortunate.”

15. In the meantime on hearing their multifarious voices, Kumbhodara¹⁹⁰ of excessive refulgence beat the gods with a baton.

16. The terrified gods shouting “Hā Hā” fled from there. The sages faltered and fell on the ground. There was excitement and great confusion.

17. Unnerved and languid, Indra crawled on his knees. The celestial sages dropped to the ground.

18. The excessively agitated sages and gods gathered

¹⁹⁰. Kālidāsa mentions Kumbhodara as an attendant of Śiva. Cf. Ragh. ii. 35.