

mood returned to their respective abodes remembering Śiva accompanied by Śivā.

53. Consecrating the daughter in a befitting manner, the mother fed her with fresh milk in the usual manner of feeding infants.

54. Duly nurtured by Vīriṇī and the noble-souled Dakṣa, she flourished every day like the digit of the moon in the bright half of a month.

55. O excellent brahmin, even in her infancy, the good qualities entered her like all the beautiful digits entering the moon.

56. While she was engaged in various sports in the midst of her girl friends, she used to draw pictures of Śiva everyday.

57. Whenever she sang sweet songs as is usual in childhood, she remembered Sthāṇu, Rudra, the suppressor of Kāma.

58. The Couple (Dakṣa and his wife) found her unrivalled mercy increase, even as she had been a great devotee in childhood itself.

59. Endowed with qualities of childhood and making her own residence flourish she delighted her parents for ever.

## CHAPTER FIFTEEN

*(The Sacred rites of Nandā and Hymn to Śiva)*

*Brahmā said :—*

1 O sage, once I saw Satī standing near her father along with you. She is, as it were, the essence of the three worlds.

2. When she saw both of us honoured and bowed to by her father, Satī following the conventions of the world, saluted us with joy and reverence.

3. At the end of obeisance, O Nārada, you and I sat in the fine seat provided by Dakṣa. When she humbly bowed again, I spoke to her.

4. O Satī, secure, as your husband, the lord of the universe, (the omniscient Śiva) who desires only you and whom you too desire.