

named Puṣpadanta. Please listen to what is mentioned by Śiva himself. I am telling you the same.

*Śiva said:—*

11. Now, give back their kingdom to the gods and their authority. If not, fight with me, the greatest of the good warriors.

12. The gods have sought refuge in me, the lord of the gods and the benefactor of the good. I the infuriated will certainly slay you.

13. I am Śiva, the destroyer. I have granted protection to all the gods. I am the holder of the chastising rod for the wicked and favourably disposed to those who seek refuge in me.

14. O lord of Dānavas, consider and let me know one of the two alternatives specifically, whether you will return the kingdom or fight.

*Puṣpadanta said:*

15. O lord of Dānavas, what has been stated by Śiva has been conveyed to you. Śiva's words have never gone in vain.

16. I wish to return to my lord Śiva immediately. After going back what shall I tell Śiva, you clearly let me know.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

17. On hearing these words of Puṣpadanta who was the emissary of lord Śiva, the king laughed, then spoke to him.

*Śaṅkhaçūda said:—*

18. I will never return the kingdom to the god. The earth shall be enjoyed by heroic warriors. O Śiva, I shall fight with you who are a partisan of the gods.

19. The hero who allows another to supercede him is the basest in the world. Hence O Śiva I shall certainly march towards you just now.

20. I reach there in the morning in the course of my victorious campaign. O messenger, go and tell all this to Śiva.