

including Brahmā, Indra and Viṣṇu were delighted. After bowing to him they spoke to lord Śiva.

The gods said:—

54. O lord of the gods, O great god, we shall constitute those paraphernalia—chariot etc. O lord, we are ready for the battle.

55. After saying so jointly after realising Śiva's wish they, the delighted gods, severally told him so, with palms joined in reverence.

CHAPTER SEVEN

(The gods pray)

Sanatkumāra said:—

1. On hearing the words of the gods and others, Śiva accepted the proposal. The lord is worthy of being sought refuge and is also favourably disposed to his devotees.

2. O sage, in the meantime the goddess Pārvatī arrived there with the two sons where Śiva was in conversation with the gods.

3. On seeing Pārvatī come there, Viṣṇu and others were surprised but without agitation they bowed to her in great humility.

4. O sage, they shouted cries of "Victory". But unable to know the cause of her arrival, they remained silent.

5. On being eulogised by the gods, the goddess Pārvatī full of wonderful enthusiasm spoke lovingly to her lord, an expert in different kinds of sports.

The goddess said:—

6. "O lord, see the sportive six-faced¹⁸⁹ Kārttikeya,

189. Kārttikeya is called a six-faced deity (षण्मुखः), for according to the legend Kārttikeya when born was fostered by the six Kṛttikās who offered their six breasts to him, so he became six-headed.