

CHAPTER FIFTYTHREE

(*Description of Śiva's return journey*)

Brahmā said:—

1. Then Viṣṇu and other gods, the sages and ascetics sent message to the mountain about their intention to leave after finishing their immediate duties.

2. Then the lord of mountains finished his ceremonial ablution and the worship of his favourite deity. Calling his kinsmen in the city, he came to the audience hall joyously.

3. There he worshipped the lord with pleasure and requested him to stay in his house for a few days more along with all the people.

4. "O Śiva" he said "I am contented by your sight. I am blessed since you came here with the gods".

5. Saying these words and many more, the lord of mountains pleaded with palms joined in reverence to the lord along with Viṣṇu and other gods.

6. Then the gods and sages remembered Śiva and spoke with delight.

The gods said:—

7. O lord of the mountains, you are blessed. Your glory is great. Even in the three worlds, there is none equal to you in merit.

8. At your very door, lord Śiva, the supreme Brahman, the goal of the good and favourably disposed to His devotees, has deigned to come along with us, His slaves.

9. O lord of mountains, this audience hall is very excellent. You have honoured us in diverse ways. The foodstuffs served to us were extraordinary. It is impossible to describe them suitably.

10. It is no wonder that everything is perfect where the goddess Pārvatī is present. We too are blessed since we came.

Brahmā said:—

11. Thus there was mutual admiration and glorification of an enlightened nature. There was great jubilation. The