

*Lord Śiva said :—*

58. O Viṣṇu, Lord of devas and as dear to me as my vital airs, do not prevent me from killing him. He is a rogue.

59. I shall fulfil your first entreaty already accepted by me. I shall kill this wicked four-faced one who has committed a great sin.

60. I shall myself create all living beings—mobile and immobile. Or by my splendid power I shall create another creator.

61. Killing this Brahmā and keeping up my plighted word, I shall create another creator. Excuse me. Do not prevent me.

*Brahmā said :—*

62. On hearing these words of Śiva, Viṣṇu spoke again smiling to himself and saying “O don’t do this.”

*Viṣṇu said :—*

63. Fulfilling the promise is but proper in you, the great Being. But consider, O lord, the desire to kill cannot be directed to one’s own Self.

64. We three, O Śiva, are your own selves. We are not different. We are of the same form. Think over the exact state.

*Brahmā said :—*

65. Then on hearing the words of Viṣṇu a great favourite, Śiva spoke again announcing His own special pursuit.

*Śiva said :—*

66. O Viṣṇu, lord of all devotees, how can this Brahmā be my own self? He is observed as different, standing before me.

*Brahmā said :—*

67. Thus commanded by Śiva in the presence of all, Viṣṇu spoke thus propitiating the great lord.