

CHAPTER FIVE

(The story of Sandhyā)

Sūta said :—

1. On hearing these words of Brahmā, the excellent sage remembered Śiva with a delighted heart and spoke joyfully.

Nārada said :—

2. O Brahmā, the fortunate disciple of Viṣṇu, O intelligent one, you have narrated the wonderful divine sports of the moon-crested lord.

3-4. After Kāma had married and gone to his residence when all of you, i.e. you the creator, Dakṣa and the mental sons, had all gone to your respective abodes, where did Sandhyā, the daughter of Brahmā and the mother of the Pitṛs go ?

5. What did she do ? Who married her ? Please tell me all about it and particularly the account related to Sandhyā.

Sūta said :—

6. On hearing these words of his intelligent son, Brahmā, who knew the real situation, remembered Śiva and said :—

Brahmā said :—

7. O sage, listen to the auspicious story of Sandhyā, on hearing which ladies do always become chaste.

8. That Sandhyā was my daughter mentally created by me formerly. She performed a penance, cast off her body and was reborn as Arundhatī.

9-10. She was born as the intelligent daughter of the excellent sage Medhātithi, performed sacred rites at the bidding of Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Śiva and chose as her husband the noble-souled Vasiṣṭha of praiseworthy rites. She of auspicious countenance became the foremost of chaste ladies and deserved honour and respect from everyone.