

7. Anxiously thinking all this about, O sage, I became free from haughtiness. I remembered Viṣṇu who is identical with Śiva and who is the cause of my origin.

8. I eulogised Him with auspicious hymns supplemented by statements of my miserable predicament on hearing which the lord appeared before me immediately.

9. The lord Viṣṇu with four arms, lotus-like eyes, holding conch, lotus and mace in his hands and wearing the refulgent yellow robe, dark-complexioned and the beloved of the devotees.

10. On seeing him in that form I eulogised him again with devotion and words choked with tears. I considered him as my sole refuge.

11. On hearing this psalm of prayer, Viṣṇu, the destroyer of the miseries of his devotees, became delighted and spoke to me who sought refuge in him.

*Viṣṇu said :—*

12. “O Brahmā of great intellect, you are the blessed creator of the world. Why did you remember me? Why do you laud me?

13. What great misery has befallen you? Tell me now. I shall quell it entirely. You need not entertain any doubt in this respect.”

*Brahmā said :—*

14. On hearing the words of Viṣṇu I heaved a sigh of relief and raised my face. I spoke to Viṣṇu with due salutations and palms joined in reverence.

15. O lord of Lakṣmī, lord of Gods, please listen to my submission, O bestower of Honour. On hearing it please take pity, remove my misery and bestow happiness on me.

16. O Viṣṇu, I sent Kāma with his followers, Māras, Spring and others in order to fascinate Rudra.

17. They employed various means but in vain. He, the ascetic of equanimity, was not moved at all.

18. On hearing these words of mine Viṣṇu the omniscient who is conversant in the principles of Śiva-cult was surprised and spoke to me thus.