

## CHAPTER TEN

*(The Evanescence of Śiva after expounding the Five-fold duties and the Omkāra mantra to Brahmā and Viṣṇu)*

*Brahmā and Viṣṇu said :—*

1. O Lord, please tell us the characteristic feature of the five-fold duties beginning with creation.

*Śiva said :—*

I shall tell you the great secret of the five-fold duties, out of compassion for you.

2. O Brahmā and Viṣṇu, the permanent cycle of the five-fold duties consists of creation, maintenance, annihilation, concealment, and blessing.

3. Sarga is the creation of the world ; Sthiti is its maintenance; Samhāra is the annihilation; Tirobhāva is the removal and concealment

4. Liberation (from the cycle of birth and death) is blessing. These five are my activities but are carried on by others silently as in the case of the statue at the Portal.

5. The first four activities concern the evolution of the world and the fifth one is the cause of salvation. All these constitute my prerogatives.

6-8. These activities are observed in the five elements by devotees—Sarga (creation) in the Earth, Sthiti (maintenance) in the waters, Samhāra (annihilation) in the fire, Tirobhāva (concealment) in the wind and Anugraha (liberation, the blessed state) in the firmament. Everything is created by the Earth; everything flourishes by virtue of the waters; everything is urged by the fire, everything is removed by the wind and everything is blessed by the firmament. Thus intelligent men must know the same.

9. In order to look after these five-fold activities I have five faces, four in the four quarters and the fifth in the middle.

10. O sons, in view of your austerities you two have received the first two activities:—creation and maintenance. You have gratified me and are blessed therefore.

11. Similarly, the other two activities (annihilation and concealment) have been assigned to Rudra and Maheśa.