

## CHAPTER TWENTYSEVEN

(The birth of Śaṅkhacūḍa)

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

1. O sage, now listen to another story of Śiva lovingly, by listening to which the devotion to Śiva is stabilised.

2. The story narrates how the heroic Dānava Śaṅkhacūḍa who harassed the gods was killed by Śiva in the battle by means of his trident.

3. O Vyāsa, listen lovingly to the story of Śiva, divine, holy and destructive of sins. I shall narrate the same because of my affection to you.

4. The sage Kaśyapa son of Marīci and grandson of Brahmā was a virtuous Prajāpati engaged in creation. He possessed great learning.

5. Dakṣa gave him his thirteen daughters in marriage. The descendants of these women are many and they cannot be enumerated easily.

6. The whole universe consisting of gods and others the mobile and immobile is born of them. Who in the three worlds can mention this in detail?

7. Listen to what is relevant to the context wherein the divine sports of Śiva too can be seen. It is conducive to the increase of devotion. I am narrating the same.

8. Among the wives of Kaśyapa the excellent lady Danu was one. She was very beautiful, chaste and tenderly nurtured by her husband with all devotion and love.

9. Many powerful sons were born to that lady Danu. Their names are not mentioned O sage, by the fear of dilation.

10. One of them is Vipracitti who was very powerful and valorous. His virtuous son Dambha of self-control was a great devotee of Viṣṇu.

11-12. No son was born to him. Hence the hero became worried. He made the preceptor Śukra his initiator and learnt the mantra of Kṛṣṇa. He performed a great penance in the holy centre Puṣkara<sup>241</sup> for a hundred thousand years.

<sup>241</sup>. Puṣkara is a sacred forest near Ajmer in Rajasthan. There is a celebrated lake where Brahmā set up a phallic image of Śiva. It is a famous place of pilgrimage in Rājaputānā.