

O Śiva, you are the immanent soul of all. You know everything.

6. O lord, carry out the task of the gods. O great lord, save the gods. Slay Tāraka and other demons and take pity on us."

7. On hearing these words of the gods, lord Śiva agitated in soul and dispirited in the mind, replied.

*Śiva said:—*

8. "O Viṣṇu, O Brahmā, O gods, you are the goal of everybody's mind. What should happen necessarily must happen. There is none to stop it.

9-11. What has happened has already happened. Now O gods, listen to what is relevant to the context. Let him who will, take up this discharged semen". After saying this He let it fall on the ground. Urged by the gods Agni became a dove and swallowed it with his beak. O sage, in the meantime Pārvatī came there.

12. When Śiva took a long time to return, she hastened there and saw the gods. On coming to know of the incident she became very furious.

13. She told Viṣṇu and the gods as follows.

*The goddess said :—*

14. Hi Hi, O gods, you are wicked and particularly selfish and for that purpose you give pain to others.

15. O gods, for the sake of realising your self-interests you all propitiated the lord and spoilt my dalliance. I have become a barren woman therefore.

16. O gods, after offending me none can be happy. Hence O wicked heaven-dwellers, you will remain unhappy.

*Brahmā said :—*

17. After saying these words Pārvatī, the daughter of the king of mountains, blazing with fury cursed Viṣṇu and all other gods.

*Pārvatī said :—*

18. From now onwards let the wives of the gods be utterly barren and let the gods who offended me be unhappy.