

## CHAPTER TWENTY TWO

(*The dalliance of Śivā and Śiva on the Himālayas*)

*Brahmā said:—*

1. Once at the advent of clouds, Dakṣa's daughter said to Śiva who was halting on the ridge of Kailāsa mountain.

*Satī said:—*

2. O lord of devas, O Śiva my dear husband, please hear my words and do accordingly, O bestower of honour.

3. The most unbearable season of the advent of clouds has arrived with clusters of clouds of diverse hues, and their music reverberating in the sky and the various quarters.

4. The speedy gusts of wind scattering sprays of water mingled with nectarine drops from the Kadamba flowers captivate the heart as they blow.

5. Whose mind will not be agitated by the loud and forceful rumblings of the clouds that release a heavy down-pour and have the beams of lightning for their ensign ?

6. Covered by the clouds neither the sun nor the moon is visible. Even the day appears like the night and it distresses those who are separated from their lovers.

7. O Śiva, tossed about by the gusts of wind the clouds do not remain steady in any place, they rumble and appear as if they would fall on the heads of the people.

8. Huge trees struck down by the wind appear to dance in the sky, terrifying the cowards and delighting the lover, O Śiva.

9. Flocks of cranes above the clouds glossy and blue like the collyrium shine like foams on the surface of Yamunā.

10. During the close of the nights the circle of lightning appears like the blazing submarine<sup>277</sup> fire in the ocean.

11. O odd-eyed Śiva, here even in the courtyards of the

277. Baḍavāmukha variously called Baḍavānala, Aurva etc. is a submarine fire, represented as a flame with a horse's head. According to Paurāṇic Mythology it devours all things including the Gods, Asuras, and Rākṣasas at the dissolution of the Universe.