

## CHAPTER THIRTYFIVE

(The conversation between Śiva and the emissary of Śaṅkhacūḍa)

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

1. Stationing himself there, the lord of Dānavas sent a leading Dānava of great knowledge as his emissary to Śiva.

2. The emissary went there and saw the moon-crested lord Śiva, of the refulgence of a crore suns, seated at the root of the Banyan tree.

3. He saw him sitting in a yogic pose, showing the mystic gesture with his eyes, with a smiling face and body as pure as crystal and blazing with transcendent splendour.

4-7. Śiva held the trident and the iron club. He was clad in the hide of the tiger. The emissary saw the three-eyed lord of Pārvatī, the enlivener of the life of the devotees, the quiet Śiva, the dispenser of the fruits of penance, the creator of riches, quick in being propitiated, eager to bless the devotees and beaming with pleasure in his face. He saw the lord of the universe, the seed of the universe, identical with the universe and of universal form, born of all, lord of all, creator of all, the cause of the annihilation of the universe, the cause of causes, the one who enables devotees to cross the ocean of hell, the bestower of knowledge, the seed of knowledge, knowledge-bliss and eternal.

8. On seeing him, the messenger, the leader of Dānavas, descended from his chariot and bowed to him as well as to Kumāra.

9. He saw Bhadrakālī to his left and Kārttikeya standing before him. Kālī, Kārttikeya and Śiva offered him the conventional benediction.

10. This emissary of Śaṅkhacūḍa, had full knowledge of the sacred texts. He joined his palms in reverence and bowing to him spoke the auspicious words.

*The Emissary said :—*

11. “O lord, I am the emissary of Śaṅkhacūḍa and have come to you. What is it that you desire? Please tell me.”