

*Sanatkumāra said :—*

3. O Vyāsa, listen. O intelligent excellent devotee of Śiva, listen to the good story of Viṣṇu mingled with the story of Śiva.

4. When Brahmā and other gods became silent, lord Śiva, favourably disposed to those who seek refuge in him, was delighted and said.

*Śiva said:—*

5. O Brahmā, O ye excellent gods, it is for you that Jalandhara has been killed by me although he was a part of myself. Truth. It is the truth that I say.

6. O dear gods, tell me the truth. Have or have not you attained happiness? It is for you that I indulge in sports though I am always free from all aberrations.

*Sanatkumāra said :—*

7. Then Brahmā and other gods, with eyes blooming with delight, bowed to Śiva with bent heads and mentioned to him the activities of Viṣṇu.

*The gods said:—*

8. “O great lord, all the gods have been saved by you from the danger of the enemy but another event has happened. What shall we do in that respect ?

9. O lord, Vṛndā was fascinated by Viṣṇu. She burnt herself on the pyre and attained the great goal.

10. But Viṣṇu deluded by your illusion is excessively agitated by the beauty of Vṛndā. He has smeared himself with the ashes from her pyre.

11. Although advised and consoled by the Siddhas and sages, and pacified by us with respect, Viṣṇu deluded by your illusion does not come to his former self.

12. O lord Śiva, be pleased. Restore Viṣṇu to his former self. This entire creation born of Prakṛti and consisting of the mobile and immobile beings, is subservient to you”.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

13. On hearing these words of the gods, lord Śiva of