

41. There was a great hue and cry in all the three worlds consisting of the mobile and immobile. The inhabitants of the worlds were in a great fix and uncertainty.

42. "Brahmā's life span is not over, but the whole universe is undergoing untimely destruction. Certainly it is due to Śiva's wish.

43. The sixfaced deity and the other gods who came there failed to use their weapons effectively. They were very much surprised.

44. In the meantime, goddess, the mother of the universe, of special knowledge, came to know of the entire incident and was very furious.

45. O great sage, the goddess created two Śaktis¹⁶⁶ then and there for the assistance of her own Gaṇa.

46. O great sage, one Śakti assumed a very fierce form and stood there opening her mouth as wide as the cavern of a dark mountain.

47. The other assumed the form of lightning. She wore many arms. She was a huge and terrible goddess ready to punish the wicked.

48. The weapons hurled by the gods and the Gaṇas were caught in the mouth and hurled back at them.

49. None of the weapons of the gods was seen anywhere around the iron club of Gaṇeśa. This wonderful feat was performed by them.

50. A single boy stirred and churned the vast impassable army in the same manner as great mountain¹⁶⁷ churned the ocean of milk formerly.

51. Indra and other gods were struck by him, single-handed. The Gaṇas of Śiva became agitated and distressed then.

52. Gasping frequently for their breath, being utterly

¹⁶⁶. One is the terrible aspect of the Goddess personified as Kālī, Caṇḍī and Bhairavī, the other a beautiful yellow form named Durgā with several hands and riding on a tiger in a fierce and minacing attitude.

¹⁶⁷. The term 'girivara' the best of the mountain refers to the fabulous mountain Meru that was used for churning the ocean.