

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

21. On hearing these words of Śaṅkha-cūḍa, the emissary of Śiva laughed aloud and then spoke haughtily to the lord of the Asuras.

*Puṣpadanta said:—*

22. O Great king, you cannot face the Gaṇas of Śiva. Then how can you face lord Śiva himself?

23. So return their positions of authority to the gods entirely. Move immediately to Pātāla if you wish to live.

24. O excellent Dānava, do not regard Śiva an ordinary deity. He is indeed the great soul, the lord of the lord of all.

25. Indra and other gods abide by his commands. The Siddhas, the patriarchs, the sages and the serpent lords all follow suit.

26. He is the overlord of Viṣṇu and Brahmā. He is both possessed and devoid of attributes. By a mere twitch of his knitted eyebrow everything is dissolved.

27. Śiva is the perfect form of gods, the cause of the annihilation of the worlds, the goal of the good, the destroyer of the wicked. He is free from aberrations. He is greater than the greatest.

28. He is the overlord of Brahmā. He is lord Śiva even into Viṣṇu. O excellent Dānava, his behest should never be slighted.

29. Of what avail is an unnecessary digression, O great king. Ponder deeply. Know him to be great lord, the great Brahman, the knowledge-formed.

30. Return their kingdoms to the gods as well as their positions of authority. O dear, thus you will fare well. Otherwise, terror will strike you.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

31. On hearing this, the valorous king of the Dānavas, deluded by his fate spoke to the emissary of Śiva thus.

*Śaṅkha-cūḍa said:—*

32. I shall neither give up kingdom nor the positions