

CHAPTER TWENTY

(*Satī's marriage festival*)

Nārada said :—

1-2. O lord Brahmā, the fortunate one, foremost of Śiva's devotees, you have narrated the wonderfully auspicious story of Śiva. O dear one, what happened after that? Please continue to narrate the story of the moon-crested Śiva and Satī, the wonderful story that quells all sins.

Brahmā said :—

3. When Śiva who is sympathetic towards His devotees, desisted from killing me, all became fearless, happy and pleased.

4. All of them bowed with stooping shoulders, and palms joined in reverence. They lauded Śiva with devotion. They shouted cries of victory with pleasure.

5. At the same time, delighted and fearless, O sage, I eulogised Śiva with devotion by means of auspicious prayers.

6. O sage, the lord Śiva who was delighted in His mind and who is an adept in many a divine sport spoke to me within the hearing of all.

Rudra said :—

7. "Dear Brahmā, I am glad. You can be free from fear. You touch your head with your hand. Unhesitatingly carry out my behest."

Brahmā said :—

8. On hearing these words of Lord Śiva adept in divine sports I touched my head and in the same manner bowed to Śiva.

9. When I thus touched my head I assumed the shape of his vehicle, the bull.

10. Then I was too much ashamed. I stood with my head bent down. Indra and other devas standing around saw me in that plight.

11. Ashamed that I was, I repeatedly bowed to Him and