

and innumerable. They had thousand hands, matted hair, crown etc.

27. They had crescent moon as their embellishing decoration ; they were blue-necked, three-eyed, adorned with necklaces, earrings, crowns and other ornaments.

28. Lord of Gaṇas emulating Brahmā, Indra and Viṣṇu and shining with the brilliance of crores of suns and possessed of Aṇimā etc. reached there.

29. The Gaṇa chiefs<sup>232</sup> and other noble souls of spotless splendour eagerly reached there desirous of seeing Śiva.

30. Reaching the spot they saw Śiva, bowed to and eulogised him. Viṣṇu and others bent their heads and joined their palms in reverence.

31. Then Lord Śiva, Viṣṇu and others, went to Kailāsa, the residence of Kubera lovingly.

32. Kubera and his attendants received the distinguished guest with great respect and worshipped him with devotion offering him various presents.

33. In order to please Śiva, he worshipped Viṣṇu and other Devas, the Gaṇas and the followers of Śiva.

34. Śiva was highly delighted and He embraced Kubera and kissed him on the head. With all his followers He stayed near Alakā.

35. The lord commanded Viśvakarmā to erect buildings on the mountain for His own residence and that of his devotees and others suitably.

36. At the bidding of Śiva, O sage, Viśvakarmā immediately reached the spot and made all suitable arrangements.

37-38. Then at the request of Viṣṇu, lord Śiva who was highly delighted at the arrangements went to Kailāsa after blessing Kubera and entered his residence in an auspicious hour.

39. The lord being favourably disposed to His devotees

<sup>232</sup>. Lords of Gaṇas. Gaṇas are troops who generally appear in classes. Nine such classes are mentioned in the Puranas : They are (1) Ādityas (2) Viśvas or Viśvedevas (3) Vasus (4) Tuṣitas (5) Ābhāsvaras (6) Anilas (7) Mahārājikas (8) Sādhya (9) Rudras. These are attached to Lord Śiva and serve under the command of Gaṇeśa, dwelling on Gaṇa-parvata identified with Kailāsa—a peak of the Himālaya mountain.