

*Brahmā said:—*

8. O sage, listen to the auspicious glory of Satī and Śiva entirely. It is extremely sanctifying, divine and the greatest secret of all secrets.

9. O sage, Śiva himself narrated this formerly to Viṣṇu, the greatest of devotees for helping others, when requested by him.

10. Viṣṇu, the intelligent and the greatest of Śiva's devotees was asked by me and O great sage, he told me everything lovingly.

11. Therefore I shall narrate this ancient story that confers the fulfilment of all desires since it glorifies Satī and Śiva.

12. Originally when Śiva was separated from Śakti and was pure consciousness alone, He was attributeless, free from alternatives, devoid of forms and beyond the existent and non-existent.

13. He, the greatest of the great and of changeless form when united with Śakti, was filled with attributes and had specific forms and divine features. O brahmin, He was accompanied by Umā.

14. Viṣṇu was born of His left and I, Brahmā, of his right side, O great sage, Rudra was born of his heart.

15. I became the creator (Brahmā); Viṣṇu the cause of sustenance; Rudra the author of dissolution. Thus Sadāśiva, manifested himself in three forms.

16. It was after worshipping Him that I, Brahmā, the grand-father of all the worlds, began the creation of all subjects including Devas, Asuras, human beings etc.

17. After creating the guardians of the subjects, Prajāpatis, Dakṣa and other Devas, I considered myself loftier than others and was delighted.

18-19. O sage, when I created Marīci, Atri, Pulaha, Pulastya, Aṅgiras, Kratu, Vasiṣṭha, Nārada, Dakṣa and Bhṛgu, my mental sons of lordly stature, a beautiful woman of handsome features was born of my mind.

20. She was variously called Sandhyā, Divakṣāntā, Sāyam Sandhyā and Jayantikā. She was very beautiful with