

desired to go to Śiva's abode and accordingly came to the summit of Kailāsa⁴⁰ where the moon-crested God resided.

23. On seeing that region of Parameśvara in the shape of Omkāra they bent their heads down in reverence and entered the palace.

24. There they saw the supreme leader of the Devas brilliantly shining on the gem-set seat in the company of Umā on an altar in the middle of the council-chamber.

25. His right leg was kept over the knee of the left ; his lotus-like hands were placed over the legs ; his attendants were all round him. He had all good characteristic features.

26. He was being fanned by the specialists in that art—ladies of pointed attention. The Vedas were extolling Him. The lord was blessing every one.

27. On seeing the lord thus, the Devas shed tears of joy.⁴¹ O dear one, the hosts of Devas knelt down even from a great distance.

28. The lord, on seeing the Devas, beckoned them to him through his attendants. Then causing the delight of the Devas, the crest-jewel of Devas (*i. e.* Śiva), addressed them gravely with sweet auspicious words.

CHAPTER SEVEN

(Śiva manifesting himself as a column of fire in the battlefield)

Īśvara said :—

1. Dear children, hail to ye. I hope the universe and the race of the deities, under my suzerainty, flourish in their respective duties.

2. O gods, the fight between Brahmā and Viṣṇu is

40. Kailāsa: It is said to be the centre of the Himālaya region, *Mat.* Ch. 121 ; it is identified with a peak of the Hemakūta mountain : S. M. Ali : *The Geography of the Purāṇas* P. 57-58. It is called Śiva-parvata and Gaṇa-parvata and is situated to the north of Mānasarovara.—*Sk.* I. ii. 8. 15 ; I. iii u. 4.14 ; II. 1.5. 76.

41. Daṇḍa-praṇāma: It is the same as the aṣṭāṅgapraṇāma which is performed by prostration of the eight parts of the body ; the eight parts being the hands, breast, forehead, eyes, throat and the middle of the back.