

crescent moon as her coronet and divine ornaments shining brilliantly.

42. She saw the three-eyed Mahādeva, the eternal, being served devotedly by Viṣṇu, Brahmā and other gods.

43. He had the brilliance of ten million suns and was reverently served by Gaṇeśa, Bhṛṅgi, Nandīśa Virabhadreśvara and others.

44. His neck had a blue hue; he had five faces, three eyes, the crescent moon as crest-ornament and his left side was apportioned to Gaurī who had the brilliance of lightning.

45. He was white in complexion like camphor and wore all ornaments. Besmeared with white ashes all over the body and clad in white cloth he shone brilliantly.

46. The woman Cañculā became highly delighted on seeing Śaṅkara. In her flutter of delight she bowed again and again to Him.

47. She joined her palms in reverence with great pleasure, love and humility. In her great delight she shed tears of joy and had feelings of horripilation.

48. With sympathy she was allowed to approach Pārvatī and Śaṅkara who gracefully looked at her.

49. Cañculā, the beloved wife of Binduga, thus attained a divine form and was blessed with divine pleasures and made a chaperon by Pārvatī.

50. In that permanent abode of excellent bliss and sublime lustre she acquired a permanent residence and unobstructed pleasure.

CHAPTER FIVE

(Binduga's Salvation)

Śaunaka said :—

1—2. O Sūta, the fortunate Sūta, thou art blessed with thy mind engrossed in Śiva. The story that thou hast narrated to us is wonderful and conducive to the increase of devotion. What did the woman Cañculā do after obtaining her salvation? O intelligent one, please tell me in detail the story of her husband too.