

32. Viṣṇu with a thousand heads, a thousand eyes and a thousand feet<sup>209</sup> encompassed the cosmic egg touching the earth everywhere.

33. When Viṣṇu who was properly eulogised by me entered it, the cosmic egg consisting of the twentyfour principles became sentient.

34. Viṣṇu shone as the great Being, the lord of the seven worlds beginning with Pātāla<sup>210</sup>.

35. The five-faced lord Śiva created for His residence the beautiful city of Kailāsa that shone above all.

36. O celestial sage, Kailāsa<sup>211</sup> and Vaikuṇṭha will never be destroyed even if the whole cosmic egg is destroyed.

37. O foremost among sages, I am staying in Satyaloka<sup>212</sup>. O dear one, I desired the activity of creation at the bidding of Śiva.

38. Even as I stood desirous of creation, the Evil creation, viz. the set of five Illusions<sup>213</sup> appeared before me. It was of the nature of darkness endowed with knowledge.

209. RV. X. 90; VS. 31.1.

210. The seven regions descending from the earth, one below the other, are called अतल, वितल, सुतल, रसातल, तलातल, महातल and पाताल ।

211. This city is located on the central peak of Hemakūta which is one of the loftiest peaks to the North of the Mānasa lake. It is the abode both of Lord Śiva and his friend Kubera who is the Lord of wealth.

212. This is one of the seven lokas of the upper region. The other six lokas are भूः, भुवः, स्वः, महः, जनः, तपः । For the sanctity and position of this loka compare an unidentified quotation from the Devī Bhāgavata.

सत्यं तु सप्तमो लोको ब्रह्मणः सदनं ततः ।

सर्वेषां चैव लोकानां मूर्ध्नि सन्तिष्ठते सदा ॥

ज्ञानकर्मप्रतिष्ठानात्तथा सत्यस्य भाषणात् ।

प्राप्यते चोपभोगार्थं प्राप्य न च्यवते पुनः ।

तत्सत्यं सप्तमो लोकस्तस्मादूर्ध्वं न विद्यते ॥

213. अविद्या also designated as विपर्यय is fivefold. Its five kinds are mentioned in the Liṅgapurāṇa (2.9.30).

तमो मोहो महामोहस्तामिस्र इति पण्डिताः ।

अन्धतामिस्र इत्याहुरविद्यां पञ्चधा स्थिताम् ॥

these are defined in the Devī Bhāgavata in the following way :