

subtle elements. The third was Vaikārika of the nature of transformations and ramifications). Thus with five Vaikṛta types and three later Prākṛtas there were eight types of creation.

47. The Kaumāra Sarga was the ninth. It was both Prākṛta and Vaikṛta. I cannot adequately describe the divisions and sub-divisions of all these types of creation.

48. Last of all, I shall mention the brahminical creation which is of very little utility. It is here that the great creation of Sanaka and others, referred to above as Kaumāra Sarga, took shape.

49. Sanaka and others, my mental sons, were five<sup>215</sup> in number. They were all on a par with Brahman, of good rites and averse to worldly attachment.

50. Despite my command they were not inclined to carry on the activities of creation; those scholarly sons turned their attention from worldly activities and were devoted to the exclusive meditation on Śiva.

51. O Nārada, they were bold enough to retort to me whereat I became very furious and nearly senseless.

52. When I became nearly unconscious on account of excessive fury and agitation, drops of tears fell from my eyes.

53. At that time, on being mentally meditated upon, Viṣṇu came there hurriedly and enlightened me.

54. O foremost among sages, I was instructed by Viṣṇu to perform the penance of Śiva. Accordingly I performed a severe penance.

55-56. While I was performing penance for creation, the merciful lord Śiva of Trinity, came out of the spot called Avimukta between the eyebrows and the nose. He manifested himself as Half woman and Half man in full potency.

57-58. On seeing the unborn lord Śiva, a mass of refulgence, the consort of Umā, the omniscient, the creator of everything, famous as Nilalohita, straight in front of me I

215. These are Sana, Sanaka, Sanat, Sanātana and Sujāta. Elsewhere they are stated to be seven or ten.