

ever person you meet at first you cut off his head and fit it to this body.”

*Brahmā said:—*

48. Then they carried out Śiva’s behests and acted accordingly. They brought the headless body of Gaṇeśa and washed it well.

49. They paid homage to it and started towards the north. It was a single-tusked elephant that they met.

50-51. They took the head and fitted it to the body. After joining it, the gods bowed to Śiva, Viṣṇu and Brahmā and spoke—“What has been ordered by you has been carried out by us. Let the task left incomplete be performed now.”

52. Then the Pārṣadas shone happily. After hearing those words they awaited eagerly what Śiva would say.

53. Then Brahmā, Viṣṇu and other gods spoke after bowing to lord Śiva who is free from the ill effects of the attributes.

54. They said :—“Since we all are born out of your brilliant Energy let that Energy come into it by the recitation of the Vedic mantras.

55. Saying so, they jointly sprinkled the holy water, invoked by the mantras on that body after remembering Śiva.

56. Immediately after the contact of the holy water the boy was resuscitated to life and joined with consciousness. As Śiva willed, the boy woke up as from a sleep.

57. He was handsome, extremely comely. He had the face of an elephant. He was red-complexioned. He was delighted with face beaming. He was brilliant and had fine features.

58. O great sage, on seeing the son of Pārvatī resuscitated to life, they all rejoiced and their miseries came to an end.

59. They showed him delightfully to the goddess. On seeing her restored to life, the goddess was greatly delighted.