

33. Formerly when the ocean was churned, the nectar was drunk off by the gods.²⁷⁴ All the strain and stress was ours but the gods reaped the fruit of our endeavour.

34. The entire universe is but an object of sport of Kāla the supreme soul. Whomsoever and whensoever he pleases to bestow the riches he attains them.

35. The enmity of the gods and the Dānavas is perpetual and sparked off due to some reason or other. By turns, subject to the whims of Kāla they enjoy victory or defeat.

36. Interference on your part in the dispute between the two is futile. This does not behove you, the lord who are equally in touch with both.

37. Your rivalry to us is excessively shameful since you are lord unto the gods as well as to the Asuras. You are the supreme soul.

38. In the event of your victory your fame is not enhanced. In the event of your defeat you suffer a great loss. Let this disadvantage be pondered over.

Sanatkumāra said:—

39. On hearing these words, the three-eyed lord laughed and spoke sweetly to the leading Dānava what seemed proper.

Lord Śiva said:—

40. We are subservient to our devotees. We are never independent. We carry out their tasks at their wish. We are not the partisans of any one in particular.

41. Formerly the fight of Viṣṇu with the excellent Daityas Madhu and Kaiṭabha in the ocean of dissolution was due to the prior request of Brahmā.

42. For the sake of Prahlāda, at the request of gods, Hiranyakaśipu was slain by him acting in the interest of his devotees.

43. Formerly I fought with the Tripuras and reduced

²⁷⁴. It refers to the churning of the nectar from the ocean by the joint endeavour of the gods and Asuras. The gods drank the nectar while the Asuras were deceived by Viṣṇu and deprived of their legitimate right to drink the same.