

## CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

(The Story of Guṇanidhi)

*Sūta said :—*

1. O great sages, after hearing these words of Brahmā, Nārada once again bowed to him and asked humbly.

*Nārada said :—*

2-3. When did Śiva favourably disposed to His devotees go to Kailāsa? Where did he have the intimate acquaintance with Kubera<sup>219</sup> of great and noble soul? What did Śiva of auspicious form do there? Please narrate all these things to me. I am deeply interested in it.

*Brahmā said :—*

4. O Nārada, listen. I shall tell you the story of the moon-crested lord, how he went to Kailāsa and how he contracted friendship of Kubera.

5. In the city of Kāmpilya<sup>220</sup> there was a sacrificer named Yajñadatta. Born of Somayāji family he was an adept in the performance of sacrifice.

6. He knew Vedas and Vedāṅgas. He was a great scholar of Vedānta etc. He was honoured by the king. He was a liberal-minded donor and as such his fame had spread far and wide.

7-8. He assiduously maintained the sacrificial fire and was devoted to the study of the Vedas. His son (Guṇanidhi) was of a very handsome complexion and shone like the moon's disc. After the investiture with the sacred thread he learned all the eight lores<sup>221</sup> over and over again. Yet,

219. Kubera is the son of विश्रवस् by इड्विडा । He is the chief of the Yakṣas and a friend of Rudra. He is mythologised as having three legs and eight teeth.

220. The country known to Vājasaneyi Saṃhitā (xxiii, 18) and Śatapatha Brāhmaṇa (xiii. 2.8.3) can be identified with the city of Kāmpīla in the Furrukhabad district, Uttara Pradeśa. It was the Southern Capital of Pāñcāladeśa in ancient India. Dr. Awasthi (Studies in Sk. P. P. 85) however, places it in the Ānarta Deśa, a region of the Western India.

221. The eight sciences included (1) the triple Veda (त्रयी) (2) logic and metaphysics (आन्वीक्षिकी), (3) the science of Government