

CHAPTER 7

Bestowing of the position of a gaṇa by Śiva to Nandī

नन्दीश्वर उवाच

तत्र गत्वा मुनेऽहं वै स्थित्वैकान्तस्थले सुधीः।

अतपं तप उग्रं सन्मुनीनामपि दुष्करम्॥ १॥

Nandīśvara said, “Reaching a secluded place, I performed such a severe *tapas* which was beyond the reach of great ascetics even.

हृत्पुण्डरीकसुषिरे ध्यात्वा देवं त्रियम्बकम्।

त्र्यक्षं दशभुजं शान्तं पञ्चवक्त्रं सदाशिवम्॥ २॥

I adored the three eyed Śiva having ten arms, five heads engaged in the peaceful *tapas*.

रुद्राजाप्यमकार्षं वै परमध्यानमास्थितः।

सरितश्चोत्तरे पुण्ये ह्येकचित्तः समाहितः॥ ३॥

In the auspicious northern region of the river I took to *samādhi* with a concentrated mind.

तस्मिञ्जाप्येऽथ सम्प्रीतः स्थितं मां परमेश्वरः।

तुष्टोऽब्रवीन्महादेवः सोमः सोमार्द्धभूषणः॥ ४॥

Śiva and Pārvatī became pleased founding me engaged in the *tapas* (penance) and both of them bedecked with the crescent moon, said.”

शिव उवाच

शैलादे! वरदोऽहं ते तपसाऽनेन तोषितः।

साधु तप्तं त्वया धीमन्! ब्रूहि यत्ते मनोगतम्॥ ५॥

Śiva said, “O Son of Śilāda, I am pleased with your *tapas* and would like to bestow a boon on you. You have performed an

excellent *tapas*. On Intelligent one, you ask for anything you have in your mind.”

स एवमुक्तो देवेन शिरसा पादयोर्नतः।

अस्तवं परमेशानं जराशोकविनाशनम्॥ ६॥

At these words of Śiva, I placed my head at his feet. Then I prayed him to relieve me of the grief and old age.

अथ मां नन्दिनं शम्भुर्भक्त्या परमया युतम्।

अश्रुपूर्णेक्षणं सम्यक् पादयोः शिरसा नतम्॥ ७॥

Thereafter, Śiva, lifted me up with his own hands since I had been overpowered by devotion, with tears flown from my eyes.

उत्थाप्य परमेशानः पस्पर्शं परमार्तिहा।

कराभ्यां सम्मुखाभ्यान्तु सङ्गृह्य वृषभध्वजः॥ ८॥

Getting up he held me with his own hands, touching me at the same time, because he is always engaged in the removal of the miseries of others.

निरीक्ष्य गणांश्चैव देवीं हिमवतः सुताम्।

उवाच मां कृपादृष्ट्या समीक्ष्य जगताम्पतिः॥ ९॥

The lord of the universe, looking at Pārvaī and other *gaṇas* and casting his compassionate glance on me, said.

वत्स! नन्दिन्महाप्राज्ञ! मृत्योर्भीतिः कुतस्तव।

मयैव प्रेषितौ विप्रौ मत्समस्त्वं न संशयः॥ १०॥

“O Son, Nandī you possess enormous wisdom, therefore you should be the least afraid of the death. In fact, I had sent the two Brāhmaṇas to you. You are undoubtedly like me.

अमरो जरयात्यक्तोऽदुःखी गणपतिः सदा।

अव्ययश्चाक्षयश्चेष्टः स पिता स सुहृज्जनः॥ ११॥

You, together with your father and the friends are eternal, free from old age, free from sufferings, imperishable, and are Gaṇapati, getting all your desires fulfilled.

मद्दलः पार्श्वगो नित्यं ममेष्टो भवितानिशम्।

न जरा जन्म मृत्युर्वै मत्प्रसाद्भविष्यति॥ १२॥

You are my strength and shall always remain with me besides being dear to me. Because of my grace, you would never have to face the old age. You would neither face death, nor would you be reborn.”

नन्दीश्वर उवाच

एवमुक्त्वा शिरोमालां कुशेशयमयीं निजाम्।

समुन्मुच्य बबन्धाशु मम कण्ठे कृपानिधिः॥ १३॥

Nandīśvara said, “Thus speaking, the compassionate Śiva, taking out the garland of skulls, resembling the lotus flowers, placed it around my neck.

तयाऽहं मालया विप्र! शुभया कण्ठसक्तया।

त्र्यक्षो दशभुजश्चासं द्वितीय इव शङ्करः॥ १४॥

With placing of the auspicious garland of skulls around my neck, I attained three eyes and ten arms, resembling Śiva.

तत एव समादाय हस्तेन परमेश्वरः।

उवाच ब्रीहि किं तेऽद्य ददामि वरमुत्तमम्॥ १५॥

Then the Parameśvara Śiva, holding me with his hands said, “What an excellent boon should I bestow on you today?”

ततो जटाश्रितं वारि गृहीत्वा हारनिर्मलम्।

उक्त्वा नन्दी भवेतीह विससर्ज वृषध्वजः॥ १६॥

Then Śiva, took out the spotless water from the locks of his hair and sprinkling over me declared, “Let you become Nandī.”

ततः पञ्चमिता नद्यः प्रावर्तन्त शुभावहाः।

सुतोयाश्च महावेगा दिव्यरूपा च सुन्दरीः॥ १७॥

जटोदका त्रिस्रोताश्च वृषध्वनिरितीव हि।

स्वर्णोदका जम्बुनदी पञ्चनद्यः प्रकीर्तिताः॥ १८॥

Five spotless streams known as Jaṭodakā, Trīśrotā, Vṛṣabhadhvani, Svaranodakā and Jambu started flowing with clean and forceful water.

एतत्पञ्चनदं नाम शिवपृष्ठतमं शुभम्।
जपेश्वरसमीपे तु पवित्रं परमं मुने!॥ १९॥

O Sage, all these rivers still exists at this basin called Pañcananda which is very auspicious spot of Śiva, in the Japeśvara region.

यः पञ्चनदमासाद्य स्नात्वा जप्वेश्वरेश्वरम्।
पूजयेच्छिवसायुज्यं प्रयात्येव न संशयः॥ २०॥

Those who take bath in the five rivers—Pañcanadas, and adore him reciting his name, they certainly achieve the Śivasāyujya type of salvation.”

अथ शम्भुरुवाचोमामभिषिञ्चामि नन्दिनम्।
गणेन्द्रं व्याहरिष्यामि किं वा त्वं मन्यसेऽव्यये॥ २१॥

Thereafter Śiva said to Pārvatī, “O Pārvatī, after performing *abhiṣeka* of Nandī, I intend to establish him as the chief of my *gaṇas*. What have you to say about this?”

उमोवाच

दातुमर्हसि देवेश! नन्दिने परमेश्वर!।
महाप्रियतमो नाथ! शैलादिस्तनयो मम॥ २२॥

Umā said, “O Lord of gods, O Supreme lord, you give over Nandī, the son of Śilāda to me. He will be my loving son.”

नन्दीश्वर उवाच

ततः स शङ्करः स्वीयान्सस्मार गणपान्वरान्।
स्वतन्त्रः परमेशानः सर्वदो भक्तवत्सलः॥ २३॥

Nandīśvara said, “Then the independent, the Supreme Īśāna, viewer of all, well-disposed towards all, remembered all the best of the leaders of his *gaṇas*.

स्मरणादेव रुद्रस्य सम्प्राप्ताश्च गणेश्वराः।
असङ्ख्याता महामोदाः शङ्कराकृतयोऽखिलाः॥ २४॥

With the mere remembering of Śiva innumerable Gaṇeśvaras of Śiva having the appearances resembling the lord, arrived there.

ते गणेशाः शिवं देवीं प्रणम्याहुः शुभं वचः।
ते प्रणम्य करौ बद्ध्वा नतस्कन्ध महाबलाः॥ २५॥

All the Gaṇeśvaras, offered their salutation to both Śiva and Pārvatī with folded hands, lowering their heads, and then spoke the auspicious words.

गणेश उचुः

किमर्थं च स्मृता देव! ह्याज्ञापया महाप्रभो!।
किङ्करान्नः समायातांस्त्रिपुरार्दन! कामद!॥ २६॥

Gaṇeśvaras said, “O Deva, the great lord, destroyer of Tripura, and Kāmadeva, what for have you remembered us? We have arrived here.

किं सागराञ्छोषयामो यमं वा सह किङ्करैः।
हन्मो मृत्युं महामृत्युं विशेषं वृद्धपद्मजम्॥ २७॥

Should we dry up the oceans? Or should we kill Yama with his attendants? Or should we kill the old Brahmā, besides the death?

बद्धेन्द्रं सह देवैश्च विष्णुं वा पार्षदैः सह।
आनयामः सुसङ्क्रुद्धान्देत्यान्वा दानवैः सह॥ २८॥

Should we bring Indra and Viṣṇu in bondage? Or shall we bring the ferocious Daityas and Dānavas?

कस्याद्य व्यसनं घोरं करिष्यामस्तवाज्ञया।
कस्य वाद्योत्सवो देव! सर्वकामसमृद्धये॥ २९॥

On whom should we inflict severe punishment at your command? O Lord, for whose success should we celebrate?”

नन्दीश्वर उवाच

इत्याकर्ण्य वचस्तेषां गणानां वीरवादिनाम्।
उवाच तान्स प्रशंस्य गणेशान्परमेश्वरः॥ ३०॥

Nandīśvara said, “Then Śiva started praising his valorous *gaṇas*, listening to their courageous words.”

शिव उवाच

नन्दीश्वरोऽयं पुत्रो मे सर्वेषामीश्वरेश्वरः।
प्रियो गणाग्रणीः सर्वैः क्रियतां वचनं मम॥ ३१॥

Śiva said, "This Nandīśvara is my dearest son, therefore, at my command all of you should accept him as the chief of the Gaṇeśvaras.

सर्वे प्रीत्याभिषिञ्चध्वं मद्गणानां गतिम्पतिम्।

अद्यप्रभृति युष्माकमयं नन्दीश्वरः प्रभुः॥ ३२॥

All of you should lovingly perform the *abhiṣeka* of Nandīśvara, the chief of all the *gaṇas*. He would be the lord of all of you."

नन्दीश्वर उवाच

एवमुक्ताः शङ्करेण गणाः सर्व एव ते।

एवमस्त्विति सम्प्रोच्य सम्भारानाहरैस्ततः॥ ३३॥

Nandīśvara said, "All the leaders of the *gaṇas* accepted the words spoken by lord Śiva and collected the material for performing of the *abhiṣeka*.

ततो देवाश्च सेन्द्राश्च नारायणमुखास्तथा।

मुनयः सर्वतो लोका आजग्मुर्मुदिताननाः॥ ३४॥

Then the gods like Brahmā, Viṣṇu, Indra, Lokapālas, besides the ascetics arrived there delightfully.

पितामहोऽपि भगवन्नियोगाच्छङ्करस्य वै।

चकार नन्दिनः सर्वमभिषेकं समाहितः॥ ३५॥

At the command of Śiva, Brahmā, performed *abhiṣeka* of Nandī quite carefully and appropriately.

ततो विष्णुस्ततः शक्रो लोकपालास्तथैव च।

ऋषयस्तुष्टुवुश्चैव पितामहापुरोगमाः॥ ३६॥

Then the gods like Brahmā, Viṣṇu, Indra alongwith Lokapālas and the ascetics eulogised delightfully.

स्तुतिमत्सु ततस्तेषु विष्णुः सर्वजगत्पतिः।

शिरस्यञ्जलिमाधाय तुष्टाव च समाहितः॥ ३७॥

After completion of the prayer by all the gods, Viṣṇu, the lord of the three worlds then himself offered prayer to Śiva.

प्राञ्जलिः प्रणतो भूत्वा जयशब्दं चकार च।

ततो गणाधिपाः सर्वे ततो देवास्ततोऽसुराः॥ ३८॥

Then the gods, like Viṣṇu and others, the Gaṇeśvaras and the Daityas, shouted the slogans of victory.

एवं स्तुतश्चाभिषिक्तो देवैः सब्रह्मकैस्तदा।

नन्दीश्वरोऽहं विप्रेन्द्र! नियोगात्परमेशितुः॥ ३९॥

O Excellent Brāhmaṇas, at the command of Śiva, my *abhiṣeka* was thus performed by Brahmā and others since then I am known as Nandīśvara.

उद्वाहश्च कृतस्त्रत्र नियोगात्परमेष्ठिनः।

महोत्सवयुतः प्रीत्या विष्णुब्रह्मादिभिर्ममा॥ ४०॥

Then at the command of Śiva, there Viṣṇu, Brahmā and other gods married me with enormous festivities.

मरुतां च सुता देवी सुयशा तु मनोहरा।

पत्नी स मेऽभवद्विद्या मनोनयननन्दिनी॥ ४१॥

Suyaśā the divine daughter of Marut, who delighted the mind and the heart became my spouse.

लब्धं शशिप्रभं छत्रं तथा तत्र विभूषितम्।

चामरैश्चामरासक्तहस्ताग्रैः स्त्रीगणैर्युतम्॥ ४२॥

Suyaśā received a *chatra* which was clean like the moon over which the damsels moved the flywhisks.

सिंहासनं च परमं तथा चाधिष्ठितं मया।

अलङ्कृतो महालक्ष्म्या मुकुटाद्यैः सुभूषणैः॥ ४३॥

I occupied the lion thrown with her. Mahālakṣmī, adorned me with all the ornaments besides the crown.

लब्धो हारश्च परमो देव्याः कण्ठगतस्तथा।

वृषेन्द्रश्च शितो नागः सिंहः सिंहध्वजस्तथा॥ ४४॥

रथश्च हेमहारश्च चन्द्रबिम्बसमः शुभः।

अन्यान्यपि च वस्तूनि लब्धानि हि मया मुने॥ ४५॥

The goddess then gave me the divine garland of gems, which had been worn by her around her neck. besides that I was also given a white bull, a lion, a flag, chariot, and a divine garland, resembling the moon. O Sage several other articles were also given to me.

एवं कृतविवाहोऽहं तथा पत्या महामुने!

पादौ ववन्दे शम्भोश्च शिवाय ब्रह्मणो हरेः॥४६॥

Thus soon after the marriage, I bowed in reverence with my spouse to Śiva, Pārvatī, Brahmā and Viṣṇu.

तथाविधं त्रिलोकेशः सपत्नीकं च माम्प्रभुः।

प्रोवाच परया प्रीत्या स शिवो भक्तवत्सलः॥४७॥

Then lord Śiva, who is well-disposed towards his devotees said to me and my spouse.”

ईश्वर उवाच

शृणु सत्पुत्र! तातस्त्वं सुयशेयं तव प्रिया।

ददामि ते वरं प्रीत्या यत्ने मनसि वाञ्छितम्॥४८॥

Īśvara said, “O Son, you listen, now Suyaśā is your wife. I shall therefore delightfully bestow the boon, whatever is there in your mind.

सदाऽहं तव नन्दीश! सन्तुष्टोऽस्मि गणेश्वर!।

देव्या च सहितो वत्स! शृणु मे परमं वचः॥४९॥

O Gaṇeśvara, O Nandīśa, I am always pleased with you. You listen to my graceful words with your wife.

सदेष्टुश्च विशिष्टश्च परमैश्वर्यसंयुतः।

महायोगी महेष्वासः स पिता स पितामहः॥५०॥

अजेयः सर्वजेता च सदा पूज्यो महाबलः।

अहं यत्र भवांस्त्रय यत्र त्वं तत्र चाप्यहम्॥५१॥

You will always be my favourite and will be endowed with all the prosperity. You will be a grand *yogī* and a fine archer along with your father and grandfather, who would never be defeated by anyone. You will be always

victorious and worthy of adoration. You would possess enormous prowess. You shall be there wherever I shall be and I shall be there wherever you shall be.

अयं च ते पिता पुत्र! परमैश्वर्यसंयुतः।

भविष्यति गणाध्यक्षो मम भक्तो महाबलः॥५२॥

On Son, your father will be endowed with all the prosperity. He will be the presiding officer of the *gaṇas*, quite powerful and a great devotee of mine.

पितामहोऽपि ते वत्स! तथा च नियमा इमे।

मत्समीपं गमिष्यन्ति मया दत्तवरास्तथा॥५३॥

O Dear son, your grandfather also will be like the same. This is the rule with me that whosoever approaches me, is surely endowed with a boon.”

नन्दीश्वर उवाच

ततो देवी महाभागा नन्दिनं वरदाऽब्रवीत्।

वरं ब्रूहीति माम्पुत्र सर्वान्कामान्यथेप्सितान्॥४४॥

Nandīśvara said, “Then the great goddess spoke with the intention of bestowing a boon on Nandī, “O Son, you better ask for a boon you desire to have.”

तच्छ्रुत्वा वचनं देव्याः प्रावोचत्साञ्जलिस्तदा।

भक्तिर्भवतु मे देवि! पादयोस्ते सदा वरा॥५५॥

Listening to the words of the goddess, Nandīśvara spoke with folded hands, “Let my mind always remain devoted at your feet.”

श्रुत्वा मम वचो देवी ह्येवमस्त्विति साब्रवीत्।

सुयशां ताञ्च सुप्रीत्या नन्दिप्रियतमां शिवा॥५६॥

Listening to my words, the goddess said, “Be it so”. Then the goddess addressed Suyaśā, the wife of Nandī.

देव्युवाच

वत्से! वरं यथेष्टं हि त्रिनेत्रा जन्मवर्जिता।

पुत्रपौत्रैस्तु भक्तिर्मे तथा च भनुरिव हि॥५७॥