

*Brahmā continues the story—*

18. O great sages, Satī on thus being addressed by Śiva, bowed to the lord with palms joined in reverence and said:—

*Satī said :—*

19. I have heard that my father is performing a great sacrifice. Great festivities are being conducted there. The celestial sages have assembled too.

20. O lord of devas, how is it that a visit to my father's great sacrifice does not appeal to you? Please explain to me fully, O lord.

21. This is the duty of friends that they shall frequently associate with their friends. O great lord, friends always do what increases the pleasures of their friends.

22. O lord, please come to my father's Sacrificial Hall along with me. O lord, let it be at my request.

*Brahmā said:—*

23. On hearing these words of Satī, lord Śiva, wounded in the heart by the words of Dakṣa piercing like a dart, spoke these courteous and pleasing words.

*Lord Śiva said:—*

24. Dakṣa is very well your father, dear. But he is my particular enemy.

25. But the celestial sages who usually honour me have become confused now. Being devoid of true knowledge they are attending the sacrifice of your father.

26. O gentle lady, those who go to another man's house without being invited attain disrespect which is more serious than even death.

27. Even the prosperous Indra and people like him going to another man's house in such a context become worthless. What then about others? A journey of such a nature is futile.

28. Hence you and I particularly shall not go to Dakṣa's sacrifice. O beloved, I have told you the truth.

29. People wounded with arrows by enemies are not so