

in divine sports, remembered you, O sage, in accordance with worldly conventions.

10-11. You came there praising your good luck. Bowing to Him humbly with palms joined in reverence and with stooping shoulders you eulogised Him with the utterances of words "hail to Thee". O sage, you requested Him for his behest.

12. Then the delighted Śiva, heightening your pleasure with sweet speech and evincing interest in worldly conventions told you thus, O excellent sage.

*Śiva said :—*

13. O excellent sage, listen to us lovingly. I am speaking to you because you are the crest-jewel of my devotees.

14. At your bidding a great penance has been performed by Pārvatī. Propitiated by her I have granted her the boon of my being her husband.

15. Being subservient to her by her devotion I shall marry her. The auspicious hour free of defects has been fixed by the seven sages.

16. O Nārada, the marriage will take place after seven days from today. Following the worldly conventions I shall make a grand festival of the same.

*Brahmā said :—*

17. O dear one, on hearing these words of Śiva, the supreme soul, you were delighted and you spoke after bowing to the lord.

*Nārada said :—*

18. This is your sacred rite. You have been considered subservient to your devotees. You have carried out the desire of Pārvatī.

19. O lord, a task befitting my capacity must be mentioned by you. Considering me your own servant please be kind to me. Obeisance to you.

*Brahmā said :—*

20. O great sage, Śiva, favourably disposed to His