

seated on his bull of crystal purity and beauty—the bull who is called Dharma by the Vedas, Śāstras, Siddhas and sages. Śiva was being served by the gods and sages on his way. He shone well.

56. Accompanied by all these sages and decorated in various ways, lord Śiva was going to the abode of the mountain Himālaya for the marriage with Pārvatī. He shone well.

57. Thus the story of Śiva's grand procession has been narrated to you. O Nārada, listen to the incidents of good portent that happened in the city of Himavat.

## CHAPTER FORTYONE

*(Description of the Altar-Structure)*

*Brahmā said :—*

1. Then after mutual consultation and getting Śiva's permission, O sage, Viṣṇu sent you ahead to the abode of the mountain.

2. Urged by Viṣṇu, O Nārada, you bowed to lord Śiva and went ahead of all to the abode of Himavat.

3. O sage, after going there, you saw your own image made by Viśvakarman and were surprised. You were a bit ashamed too.

4. O great sage, tired of seeing the portrayal of yourself, you became engaged in seeing the other builds of Viśvakarman.

5. You entered the great altar of Himavat, studded with various gems and decorated with gold pots and stumps of plantain trees.

6. It had a thousand columns. It was wonderful. O sage, you were struck with surprise on seeing the altars.

7. Then you were a bit confused and greatly bewildered. You spoke to the lord of mountains thus.

8-9. O lord of mountains, tell me the truth. Has lord Śiva seated on his bull and surrounded by his Gaṇas come already for the marriage? Have the gods with Viṣṇu