

lustreless asked Śiva—"O lord, please tell me, what is the promise that you made?"

56. Even when asked, the lord who was benevolent to Satī did not reveal the vow which he took in the presence of Viṣṇu formerly.

57. Then O sage, meditating on Śiva, her own beloved husband, Satī understood the matter which meant the abandonment of her own self.

58. After realising the abandonment of herself by Him, the daughter of Dakṣa was grieved much and began to heave sighs frequently.

59. But the lord Śiva kept the fact of His vow a secret from her and narrated many a tale to her.

60. Thus, narrating tales to her on the way He reached Kailāsa along with her. There Śiva, the Yogin, entered a trance and meditated upon His real form.

61. Satī stayed in the abode, overwhelmed by grief. But O sage, no one could guess the conduct of Śiva and Śivā.

62. O sage, great time elapsed even as the lord and the Goddess followed the conventions of the world through the physical bodies taken up by themselves.

63. Then Śiva the great enjoyer and protector stopped His meditation. On coming to know of it Satī, the mother of the universe, came there.

64. The Goddess bowed to Him with a moaning heart. The benevolent Śiva offered her a seat in front of Himself.

65. He narrated several interesting tales to her. By these divine sports He tried to entertain her and make her mind free from grief.

66. She regained her previous happiness. He too did not forsake His vow. O dear, this need not be considered wonderful in the benign great lord Śiva.

67. But O sage, some ignorant Pandits thus narrate the story of Śivā and Śiva and their separation. But how can there be a real separation between the two?

68. Who knows the true life and conduct of Śivā and Śiva. They sport about of their own accord and make their own lives for ever.