

is at present, nor where he is to go. O benignant favourite of the distressed, please make such arrangements as would enable me to join him.

12. O great goddess Maheśānī, my husband had a Śūdra woman as his concubine. He died before me. I do not know what befell that sinner.

*Śūta said:—*

13. On hearing these words of Cañculā Pārvatī, the daughter of Himālaya, who is fond of justice, replied lovingly.

*Girijā said :—*

14. O daughter, your wicked sinful husband Binduga, the foolish wretch enamoured of prostitutes has been to hell after his death.

15. He underwent the various tortures of hell for many years and has now become a Piśāca due to the residue of sins, in the Vindhya mountains.

16. Even now that wicked fellow is undergoing various painful tortures. He, in the form of a Piśāca, has only wind for his diet and is suffering from all sorts of miseries.

*Śūta said :—*

17. On hearing these words of Gaurī, Cañculā of auspicious rites was overwhelmed by the pain at the news of her husband's distress.

18. She somehow steadied her mind, bowed to Maheśvarī and with a worried heart asked the goddess.

*Cañculā said :—*

19. O Maheśvarī, O great goddess, be kind to me. Please redeem my husband, a wicked perpetrator of evil actions though he be.

20. What is the means by which my husband, the sinful wretch of crooked intellect, can attain salvation. O goddess, obeisance to Thee. Please explain to me.

*Śūta said :—*

21. On hearing these words of the woman, Pārvatī,