

27. A love akin to this pair will not be found anywhere. Never in the past was it seen nor will it occur in future. Nor it is current now.

28. O best of mountains, the two will fulfil the work of the gods. They will resuscitate those who have breathed their last.

29. O lord of mountains, Śiva will become Ardhanārīśvara (half male and half female), with your daughter forming half the part of your body. Their meeting once again will be delightful.

30. After propitiating lord Śiva, the lord of all, by the power of her penance, your daughter will take away half the body of Śiva.

31. By propitiating Śiva with her penance she will acquire the lustre of gold and will be known as Svarṇagaurī. Your daughter will be as fair-complexioned as lightning.

32. This girl will be famous in the name of Gaurī. She will deserve the respect of Viṣṇu, Brahmā and the other Gods.

33. O excellent mountain, you shall not give her to anyone else. This is a secret of the gods. This shall not be revealed to any one else.

34. O celestial sage, Nārada, on hearing these words that you spoke O, sage, the eloquent Himavat spoke thus:

*Himavat said:—*

35. O sage Nārada, O intelligent one, I have one submission to make. Please listen to it lovingly and make us delightful.

36. It is heard that the great God abhors all attachments. He has perfect self-control. He is ever busy in penance and is out of reach of even the Gods.

37. O celestial sage, He is in the path of meditation. How can He withdraw His mind from the supreme Brahman? I have a great doubt in this respect.

38-39. The supreme Brahman is great and imperishable. It is like the streak of a lamp. It is termed Sadāśiva. It is without aberration. It is beyond Brahmā. It is both full