

25. Śiva returned to His hermitage on the ridges of the Himālayas and began meditations though with difficulty, as He still felt the pangs of love in separation from Satī, the daughter of Dakṣa.

26. Calming his mind somehow, O celestial sage, Śiva, the bull-emblemated deity, thought of me in the usual conventions of the world.

27. Being thus thought of by the trident-bearing Śiva, I approached Him immediately prodded by Śiva's power of meditation.

28. Accompanied by Sarasvatī²⁶⁸ I reached that place on the Himālayan ridge where Śiva stayed pining in the anguish of love for Satī.

29. O celestial sage, seeing me in the company of Sarasvatī, lord Śiva who was entangled in the clutches of Satī's love said thus :—

Śiva said:—

30. O Brahmā, since, in the matter of accepting a wife I showed a little selfishness, I have a feeling of possession in everything connected with self-interest.

31. I have been propitiated by Satī, the daughter of Dakṣa with devotion. Thanks to the sacred Nandā rites, I have given her a boon.

32. O Brahmā, the boon "O be my husband" was sought of me by her. Glad at heart in every respect I had told her "Be my wife."

33. Then Satī, the daughter of Dakṣa told me like this—"O lord of the universe, please accept me in the presence of my father."

34. O Brahmā, that too I granted her as I was satisfied with her devotion, She returned to her mother's house, O Brahmā and I returned here.

35. At my bidding you must approach Dakṣa. Speak to him so that he shall give his daughter in marriage to me at once.

²⁶⁸. Sarasvatī, the Goddess of speech and learning is the wife of Brahmā. She is represented as of a graceful figure, white in colour, wearing a slender crescent on her brow and sitting on a lotus.