

about the insult to her husband. She is now born of you in the womb of Menā.

46. This Pārvatī is the wife of Śiva in every birth. In every Kalpa she is the great cosmic intellect, mother of wise men.

47. She is victorious always in the form of Siddhā, the bestower of Siddhi (achievement) and is Siddhi personified. Śiva carefully preserves the bones and ashes from the funeral pyre of Satī.

48. Hence, you give your daughter, this gentle lady to Śiva out of your own free will. Otherwise she will herself go and surrender herself as his beloved wife.

49. Taking the firm decision on seeing her innumerable sufferings He came to the place of your daughter's penance in the guise of a brahmin.

50. After consoling her and granting her the boon He returned to His abode. It was for complying with her request that Śiva requested you for the hand of Śivā, O mountain.

51. Both of you had accepted the proposal as you were drawn by devotion to Śiva. O lord of mountains, how is it that your mind has taken a somersault now ? Please tell me.

52. On being requested by the gods, the lord has sent us, the sages and Arundhatī to you.

53. O mountain, we instruct you plainly. By giving Pārvatī to Śiva you will meet with great bliss.

54. O lord of mountains, even if you do not give Pārvatī to Śiva out of your own free will, their marriage will take place as a result of the inexorable workings of fate.

55. O dear one, Śiva has already granted Pārvatī the boon at the time of her penance. A promise of Śiva cannot be turned topsyturvy.

56. Oh ! even the promise of ordinary good men acting under the guidance of Śiva cannot be transgressed in all the worlds. O mountain, what then about that of Śiva Himself.

57. Working singlehanded, Lord Indra chopped off the wings of mountains as though at play. Pārvatī too sportively broke the peak of Meru.