

Sūta said :—

3. Once she approached goddess Umā Pārvatī.¹⁸ She bowed and offered prayers to her with palms joined in her flutter of delight.

Cañculā said :—

4. O mother of Skanda, daughter of mountain, Thou art always served by men. O beloved of Śiva, the bestower of all pleasures, having the form of Supreme Brahman,

5. Thou art worthy of being served by Viṣṇu, Brahmā and others. Thou art both endowed with and devoid of attributes. Thou art the subtle primordial Prakṛti, with Existence, Knowledge and Bliss for thy forms.

6. Thou createst, maintainest and annihilatest. Thou hast the three Guṇas. Thou art the refuge of the three types of divine beings. Thou sustainest Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Maheśa.

Sūta said :—

7. Offering thus her prayers to the Goddess, Cañculā who had attained salvation ceased to talk with shoulders stooping and eyes brimming with tears of love.

8. Pārvatī, the beloved of Śiva, ever favouring her devotees, was greatly moved by pity and said to Cañculā lovingly.

Pārvatī said :—

9. O Cañculā, my friend, I am pleased to hear your prayer. O beautiful woman, what is the boon you crave from me? Tell me. There is nothing that I cannot give you.

Sūta said :—

10. Thus urged by Girijā, Cañculā bowed to her. She asked her, bending her head and joining her palms together with great devotion.

Cañculā said :—

11. O Celestial Girijā, I do not know where my husband

18. In the Pauranic Mythology, Pārvatī is the daughter of Himālaya and the wife of Śiva. In the cult of Śakti and Tantras, she has been identified with Prakṛti itself. Almost all the Purāṇas speak of her as Prakṛti and her three Guṇas Sattva, Rajas and Tamas are the three Gods : Brahmā, Viṣṇu and Śiva.