

of mountains, do? O storehouse of mercy, please tell me now where she went along with her maids.

*Brahmā said :—*

4. O dear, of great intellect, listen to the story of the moon-crested lord, my master and the cause of great enjoyment and protection.

5. A wonderfully loud sound arose covering the whole firmament when the fire issuing from Śiva's eye burnt Kāma.

6. On hearing that loud report and seeing Kāma burnt, Pārvatī was terribly frightened and she returned to her abode along with her maids.

7. Himavat along with his attendants and relatives was surprised on hearing that loud report. He was agitated on remembering that his daughter had gone there.

8. On seeing his daughter excessively agitated, the lord of the mountains was sorry. The lord of the mountains approached her gently as she was crying due to her separation from Śiva.

9-10. Approaching her and wiping off her eyes with his hand he said—"Dear daughter, do not be afraid, do not cry. He took her on his lap and consoled her. The lord of the mountains took her immediately to his palace.

11. When Śiva had vanished after burning Kāma, Pārvatī became extremely agitated due to His separation. She did not attain pleasure anywhere.

12. Returning to her father's abode and meeting her mother, Śivā, the daughter of the mountain, considered herself born again.

13. She cursed her own beauty. She said to herself. "O, I am doomed". The daughter of the lord of mountains did not regain composure though consoled and assuaged by the maids.

14. She did not achieve happiness and peace in sleeping, drinking, bathing, or sitting amidst her maids.

15. Remembering the various gestures and movements of Śiva, she muttered to herself ever and anon—"Fie upon my beauty. Fie on my birth and activity".

16. Thus Pārvatī was much distressed in mind due to