

hands. Viṣṇu was standing to the left, Brahmā to the right, Indra at his back. Behind on either side, the gods were standing. He was being eulogised by the gods and others. He looked benevolent to the people. Being one He had assumed different physical bodies for his own reasons. He was Brahman itself, the lord of all and the bestower of boons. He was both with or without attributes, subservient to the devotees, merciful, greater than primordial Being and primordial nature, Existence, Knowledge and Bliss itself.

15. The mountain saw Viṣṇu, bedecked in ornaments and seated on Garuḍa to the right of lord Śiva.

16. O sage, to the left of the lord stood I, the four-faced deity, shining brilliantly and accompanied by my attendants.

17. On seeing us both, great favourites of Śiva for ever, the lord of mountains with all his retinue respectfully bowed to us.

18. Similarly, on seeing the gods and others brilliantly shining behind lord Śiva and at his sides, the lord of mountains bowed to them.

19. At the bidding of Śiva the mountain went ahead to his city. Behind him went Viṣṇu, Brahmā, the sages and the gods.

20. O Nārada, the sages, the gods and others accompanying the lord, praised the city of Himavat with great delight.

21. Stationing the gods and others on his beautiful summit specially arranged for them, Himavat went to the place where the altar for the rites had been erected.

22. After causing squares and quadrangles to be made with festoons, he performed the ceremonial ablutions, gave charitable gifts and supervised everything.

23. Then he sent his sons to Śiva accompanied by all his attendants and followers, Viṣṇu and others.

24. The extremely delighted lord of mountains in the company of his kinsmen desired to perform the reception to the bridegroom with great pomp and ceremony.

25. The sons of the mountain accompanied by their relatives went to Śiva and acquainted him with the request of the mountain.