

and others at their head, the sages, the Siddhas and the secondary gods come already ?”

*Brahmā said :—*

10. On hearing your words full of surprise, O sage, the mountain Himavat told you the truth.

*Himavat said :—*

11. O Nārada, O highly intelligent one, Śiva with the marriage party has not come till now for the purpose of marrying Pārvatī.

12. O Nārada, know that all these things have been portrayed by Viśvakarman. O celestial sage, shake off your bewilderment. Be calm. Remember Śiva.

13. Showing kindness to me you take your food and rest for a while. Then gladly accompany Maināka and others to Śiva's presence.

14. Accompanied by these mountains you request Śiva along with the gods, and the great sages, Śiva whose sprout-like feet are worshipped by gods and demons. Bring them here.

*Brahmā said :—*

15. You accepted the suggestion noble-heartedly and performed the duties there. Then accompanied by the sons of the mountain and others you went to Śiva's presence.

16. There the brilliant god Śiva surrounded by the gods and others was seen and bowed to by you and the mountains with devotion.

17. Then all the gods including Indra, Viṣṇu and me and Śiva's attendants asked you, O sage.

18. They had been struck with surprise and suspicion on seeing the mountains Maināka, Sahya, Meru and others bedecked in all kinds of ornaments.

*The gods said :—*

19. O Nārada, intelligent one, you appear to be bewildered. Have you been duly honoured by Himavat or not ? Tell us in detail.

20. Why have these excellent mountains Maināka,