

said "This is Śiva, the bridegroom of Pārvatī" but you said "No".

17. By that time Yama passed by with twice the splendour of the previous one. On seeing him delighted Menā exclaimed "This is Śiva".

18. "No" said you. By that time Nirṛti, the lord of Puṇyajanas, passed by having twice the splendour of Yama.

19. On seeing him the delighted Menā said "This is Śiva". "No" said you to her. By that time Varuṇa passed that way.

20. On seeing his splendour twice that of Nirṛti, she said "This is Śiva, the bridegroom of Pārvatī". But you said "No".

21. By that time Vāyu passed by with twice the splendour of Varuṇa. On seeing him the delighted Menā said "This is Śiva".

22. "No" said you. By that time Kubera, the lord of Guhyakas, passed by with twice the splendour of Vāyu.

23. On seeing him the delighted Menā said "This is Śiva". "No", said you to her. By that time Īśāna passed by.

24. On seeing his splendour twice that of Kubera, she said "This is Rudra, the bridegroom of Pārvatī". But you said "No".

25. Then came Indra, the most important of all the gods, the lord of the three worlds, endowed with divine refulgence and who had twice the splendour of Īśāna.

26. On seeing him Menakā said—"This is Śiva". "Not he", said you then "This is Indra, the lord of gods".

27. By that time the moon passed by with twice the splendour of Indra. On seeing him she said "This is Śiva" and you denied it.

28. By that time the Sun passed by with twice the splendour of the moon. On seeing him she said "It is he". You said to her "No".

29. By that time Bhṛgu and other sages, all highly lustrous and accompanied by their disciples, passed by.

30. On seeing Bṛhaspati in their midst Menakā