

the Daitya, created the illusion of Gandharvas that mysteriously fascinated even Śiva.

34. By the power of his Māyā, hosts of Gandharvas and celestial damsels came into view for fascinating Śiva.

35. The Gandharvas and celestial damsels sang and danced. Others played on flutes, mṛdangas and cymbals.

36. On seeing that wonderful feat, Śiva was fascinated by the Gaṇas. He was not conscious of even the garments let down from the hands.

37. On seeing Śiva concentrated in the dance Jalandhara urged by lust immediately went to the place where Gaurī stood.

38-39. He entrusted the powerful Śumbha and Niśumbha with the conduct of war. With his demoniac Māyā he assumed the form of Śiva—with ten brawny arms, five faces, three eyes, and matted hair. He was seated on the great bull. In every respect, O Vyāsa, Jalandhara appeared like Śiva.

40. On seeing Śiva coming, the beloved of Śiva came out from the midst of her female friends within the range of his vision.

41. When the lord of Asuras saw the beautiful Pārvaṭī, he let drops of semen fall and his limbs became benumbed.

42. On realising that he was the demon, the terrified Gaurī vanished immediately to the northern shore of the Mānasa lake.

43. Unable to see her who disappeared in a moment like lightning, the Daitya immediately went to the place where lord Śiva stood in order to fight him.

44. Pārvaṭī remembered lord Viṣṇu mentally. Immediately she saw the lord seated near her.

45. On seeing Viṣṇu bowing to her with palms joined in reverence, Pārvaṭī the beloved of Śiva, the mother of the universe, spoke delightedly.

*Pārvaṭī said :—*

46. O Viṣṇu, is it not known to you that the wicked Daitya Jalandhara perpetrated a wonderfully base deed ?”

47. On hearing the words of the mother of the