

It was very wonderful. The celestial damsels danced in a befitting manner.

34. O sage, in the meantime Viṣṇu and other gods who had arrived there desired to make Śiva's procession to start.

35. At the bidding of Śiva, all of them performed service to Śiva considering His work as their own.

36. The seven Mothers performed the rites of bedecking Śiva in a fitting manner very joyously.

37. Even the very natural dress and features of Śiva assumed the work of ornamentation, O excellent sage, at the will of lord Śiva.

38. The moon took the place of the crown. The third eye became the beautiful ornament on the forehead.

39. O sage, the serpents that had been embellishing His ears before became the ear-rings studded with various gems.

40. The serpents in the other parts became the befitting ornaments of those parts, very beautiful and studded with gems.

41. The ashes became the sweet unguent smeared over his body. The elephant hide etc. became the beautiful silken cloth.

42. The form assumed a beauty beyond description. Lord Śiva seemed to have acquired from Himself all the riches.

43. Then all the gods, demons, Nāgas, Pataṅgas, Apsarasas, sages and others approached Śiva and proclaimed jovially.

*All of them said :—*

44. O lord, start on journey for wedding the great goddess, the daughter of the mountain, accompanied by us. Be merciful.

45. Then the omniscient Viṣṇu of joyful mind spoke befitting the occasion after bowing to Śiva with devotion.

*Viṣṇu said :—*

46. O lord of the gods, favourite of those who seek