

Viṣṇu, Śiva, the consort of Śivā, freely sported about at Kailāsa along with His attendants.

31. Thenceforth lord of Lakṣmī assumed the guise of a cowherd. The lord of cowherds, cowherdesses and the cows wandered there with pleasure.

32. The delightful Viṣṇu protected the universe taking up various incarnations and sustaining it at the bidding of Śiva.

33. Now He has taken a fourfold incarnation at the bidding of Śiva. I who am Rāma, and my brothers Bharata, Lakṣmaṇa and Śatrughna are His incarnations.

34. O Goddess Satī, at the bidding of my father I have come to the forest. Unfortunately I have fallen in deep distress.

35. My wife Sītā has been abducted by a demon. I am now seeking my beloved, separated from her and devoid of my kinsmen.

36. O mother Satī, since I have the good fortune of seeing you, there is no doubt that everything will be well with me by your favour.

37. By your blessings I shall have the fortune of acquiring Sītā after killing the demon of evil intention who is the cause of trouble.

38. It is my good fortune that both of you have taken pity on me. That man who is the object of your mercy is the best of blessed people.

39. After speaking thus and bowing in diverse ways to Satī, Rāma, the scion of the family of Raghu roamed in the forest with her permission.

40. On hearing these words of Rāma of pious rites, Satī was delighted. She praised him in her heart for his devotion to Śiva.

41. Remembering her own action she was much distressed. She returned to Śiva, pale in face and gloomy in spirit.

42. While returning, the Goddess frequently mused—“I did not accept Śiva’s explanation. I entertained a senseless thought against Rāma.

43. After going to Śiva what reply shall I give ?” Thinking thus, she began to repent in many ways.