

where Kāma was burnt by Śiva who was performing meditation.

32. Oh dear, that Himālayan ridge devoid of Śiva was painfully seen by Pārvatī, the mother of the universe, the daughter of the mountain.

33. She stood for a while in the place where formerly Śiva had performed penance and became dispirited by the pangs of separation.

34. Crying aloud "Alas O Śiva" she, the daughter of the mountain, lamented sorrowfully and anxiously.

35. Suppressing the delusion with fortitude after a long time Pārvatī, the daughter of Himavat, got herself initiated for the observance of ritualistic activities.

36. She performed penance in the excellent holy centre Śṛṅgitīrtha which (later) acquired the title "Gaurī-Śikhara<sup>27</sup>" due to her performance of penance thereon.

37. O sage, many beautiful holy plants were laid there by Pārvatī for testing the fruitfulness of her penance.

38. Neatly cleaning the ground, the beautiful lady built the altar. Then the penance, difficult to be performed even by the sages, was begun.

39. Suppressing her sense-organs with her mind, she started the great penance in a place within the proximity.

40. In the summer she kept a perpetually blazing fire all round and remaining within continued muttering the mantra.

41. In the rainy season she continuously remained sitting on the bare ground on the rock and got herself drenched by the downpour of rain.

42. During the winter, with great devotion she remained in water throughout. During snowfall and in the nights too she performed her penance observing fast.

43. Performing such austerities and engrossed in the muttering of the five-syllabled mantra, Pārvatī meditated on Śiva, the bestower of fruits of our cherished desires.

44. Everyday during leisure time she used to water the trees planted by her along with her maids and extended acts of hospitality.

27. It is one of the famous peaks of the Himālayas.