

44. O beloved Satī, he is standing there beneath the Vaṭa tree. You can test him and proceed until your delusion is quelled.

*Brahmā said :—*

45. Going there at Śiva's bidding, Satī the Goddess thought—"How shall I test Rāma the forest-roamer.

46. I shall assume the form of Sītā and shall go to him. If Rāma is Viṣṇu, he will know it and otherwise not.

47. Deciding like this she who was deluded by Śiva became Sītā and went there to test him.

48. On seeing Satī, in the guise of Sītā, Rāma the scion of Raghu's race repeated the name Śiva, realised the truth and laughed. He bowed to her and said.

*Rāma said: —*

49. "O Satī, Obeisance to you. Where has Śiva gone? Please tell me affably. How is it that you have come here alone without your husband ?

50. O goddess Satī, why have you cast off your own form and assumed this guise ? Take pity on me and tell me the reason thereof."

*Brahmā said :—*

51. On hearing these words of Rāma, Satī was stunned. Remembering Śiva's words and realising the truth of the same she felt ashamed.

52. Realising Rāma to be Viṣṇu she re-assumed her own original form. Remembering Śiva's feet in her heart Satī spoke delightedly :—

53. Wandering over the earth along with me in the company of his attendants, the great lord Śiva came here in the forest.

54. Here he saw you searching for Sītā in the company of Lakṣmaṇa. You were highly distressed on account of separation from Sītā.

55. At the root of the Vaṭa he came and bowed to you glorifying your greatness with pleasure.

56. He was not so happy on seeing the four-armed Viṣṇu as on seeing this simple pure form of yours.