

21. The auspicious hour for marriage rites has come. We consider that our fortune is imminent.

22. Indeed we are highly blessed as to witness the marriage ceremony of Śiva and Pārvatī, highly portentous of the good fortune of all the worlds."

*Brahmā said:—*

23. Even as these confabulations were going on, the ministers of the lord of mountains came there.

24. They approached Śiva, Viṣṇu and others and made their submission that the time for the celebration of marriage had arrived and that they would please hasten to the palace.

25. On hearing that, O sage, Viṣṇu and others rejoiced much and cried shouts of victory to the mountain.

26. Śiva too rejoiced much eager that he was approaching Pārvatī but kept the signs of joy within his mind alone in a wonderfully serene manner.

27. Then the ceremonial ablution with the sacred articles of toilet, was performed by the delighted trident-bearing lord eager to bless the worlds.

28. The bath being over He wore fine clothes. He was attended upon by the guardians of the quarters and surrounded by several others. He was then seated on the shoulders of the Bull.

29. With the lord in front, all of them entered the palace of Himavat playing on various musical instruments and exhibiting their eagerness.

30. The brahmins sent by Himavat and the excellent mountains enthusiastically went ahead of Śiva.

31. The great royal umbrella was held aloft over the great lord. He was fanned by chowries and a canopy was spread over Him.

32. Viṣṇu, Indra, the other guardians of the quarters and I going ahead shone with great brilliance and splendour.

33. In that great festivity conches were blown, drums were beaten and the musical instruments, paṭaha, Ānaka and Gomukha were played on, repeatedly.