

his abode. He praised Padmā lovingly in every assembly he visited.

54. She sported about in secret with her husband who became a young man. She gave birth to sons who surpassed her husband in their good qualities.

55. All kinds of riches were granted to the couple increasing their happiness. They were conducive to the prosperity here and hereafter.

56. O lord of mountains, this ancient story of the couple has been narrated to you. You have heard the story with pleasure and respect.

57. Knowing the real situation give your daughter Pārvatī to Śiva. Cast off sins, O lord of mountains, in the company of your wife Menā.

58-61. After a week there is a very auspicious hour very rare to meet with. The presiding planet of the lagna is in the lagna. The moon is in conjunction with his son, Mercury as well as the constellation Rohiṇī<sup>63</sup>. The moon and the stars occupy pure positions. The month is Mārgaśīrṣa and the day is Monday free from all defects. All the planets are in auspicious conjunction. They are not aspected by the evil planets. The Jupiter is in a position that is conducive to the birth of a good child and all good fortune to the bridegroom. O lord of mountains, give your daughter Pārvatī, the mother of the universe, the primordial Being to Śiva, the father of the universe. You will then get quiet and contentment.

*Brahmā said :—*

62. After saying this, the excellent sage Vasiṣṭha, most excellent of wisemen, stopped after remembering lord Śiva, the creator of divine sports of diverse varieties.

63. Rohiṇī : the fourth of the lunar asterisms, the daughter of Dakṣa and the wife of the moon.