

and gave Pārvatī and monetary presents to Śiva in accordance with the various injunctions of the Śāstras.

49. O excellent sage, in order to please Śiva and Pārvatī, the delighted Himavat presented many gifts of articles.

50. He gave to Śiva some articles as dowry. Different kinds of gems and gemset vessels were given to him.

51. He gave a hundred thousand cows, a hundred horses duly fitted up and a hundred thousand servant maids of loving nature and endowed with all necessary articles.

52. O sage, he gave a crore of elephants and chariots inlaid with gold and made beautiful by gems.

53. Thus Himavat attained perfect satisfaction after giving his daughter Pārvatī to Śiva, the great lord, in accordance with the rules.

54. Then the lord of mountains with palms joined in reverence eulogised lord Śiva joyously with the hymns of the Yajurveda.¹¹¹

55. Then at his behest, the sages jubilantly performed the holy ablution over the head of Pārvatī. Being conversant with the Vedas he asked them specially to perform this.

56. Repeating the names of lord Śiva, they performed Paryukṣaṇa rite.¹¹² There was a great jubilation and gaiety, O sage.

CHAPTER FORTYNINE

(*The delusion of Brahmā*)

Brahmā said:—

1. Then at my behest, the lord made the brahmins kindle the sacrificial fire and performed the homa, placing Pārvatī on the lap.

¹¹¹. Mādhyandina is a popular recension of the white Yajurveda of which the mantras are used by the priests in the nuptial and other ceremonies.

¹¹². It is a sprinkling of water collected from the sacred rivers by means of the leaves of sacred trees.