

scent lord, pure and holy. Sometimes she used to gaze at the lord lovingly and with surprise.

48-49 In the course of his penance sometimes the lord of the goblins thought about her as free from attachment. But as she was in her physical form He did not take her as His wife though she was near Him, though she was endowed with every feature of beauty, though she was capable of deluding even the sages.

50. On seeing her with perfect control over her sense-organs and engrossed in serving Him always, the lord mercifully thought.

51. "I shall take her only when the last seed of ego goes away from her; when she herself performs a penance."

52. Thinking thus, the lord of the Bhūtas reverted to meditation. The lord who could indulge in great sports became a great Yogin.

53. O sage, when Śiva, the great Ātman, sank into meditation, no other thought entered His mind.

54. As for pārvatī, she served Him everyday with great devotion, always thinking on the form of that Great Soul.

55. Śiva who was engrossed in meditation saw her every day in full composure. Forgetting His previous thoughts about her, He did not see her although He saw her.

56. In the mean time Indra, other gods and the sages eagerly sent Kāma there at the bidding of Brahmā.

57. They had been harassed by the demon Tāraka. the demon of great strength. Hence they wanted to unite Parvatī and Śiva in love.

58. After reaching there Kāma tried all his tricks but Śiva was not at all agitated. He reduced Kāma to ashes.

59. O sage, Pārvatī too was divested of her ego. At his bidding she performed a penance and obtained Him as her husband.

60. Pārvatī and Śiva were very happy. Engrossed in helping others they carried out the work of the gods.