

accordance with the rules for the fulfilment of the task of the gods.

15. The customary procedures of the marriage shall certainly be followed. Let Himavat know that an auspicious penance has been performed well by his daughter.

*Brahmā said:—*

16. On hearing these words, Sadāśiva was highly delighted. Laughingly and lovingly He spoke to Pārvatī.

*Śiva said—*

17. O great Goddess, listen to my important statement. See that our marriage rites are performed in the proper manner without deficiency.

18. O sweet-faced one, all the living beings Brahmā and others are non-eternal. O beautiful lady, know all these visible things to be perishable.

19. Know that the single beings assumed manifold forms. The attributeless took over the attributes. That which is self-luminous had other lights imposed on it.

20. O gentle lady, I, the independent, have been made subservient by you. You alone are the great illusory power, the Primordial nature that creates.

21. This entire universe has been made of illusion; it is held by the supreme soul with His great intellect. It is united and enveloped by the Gaṇas of the nature of pervading souls of meritorious deeds, akin to the nature of supreme soul.

22. What are these planets? What are these sets of seasons? What are those other planets? O gentle lady, what is said by you, O fair-complexioned one.

23. We two have created the universe different in attributes and actions for the sake of the devotees and with a disposition favourable to them.

24. You are indeed the subtle primordial nature consisting of Rajas, Sattva and Tamas. You are capable of perpetual activity. You are both possessed and devoid of attributes.

25. O slender-waisted lady, of all living beings I am