

45. Having come there and mentioning everything to the gods, Brahmā and Viṣṇu went to Kailāsa taking the gods with them.

46-47. On seeing lord Śiva there, the lord and husband of Pārvatī, who had taken a body for protecting the distressed, the lord of the gods possessed of attributes, they eulogised him as before with devotion and choking words. They joined their palms in reverence humbly and with drooping shoulders.

*The gods said:—*

48. O great god, lord of the gods, O Śiva, the lord of Pārvatī, we seek refuge in you. Please save the terrified gods.

49. Please slay Śaṅkhacūḍa the king of Asura and the destroyer of the gods. The gods have been defeated and harassed by him.

50. Like men they are roaming on the earth divested of their powers. Their region the Devaloka has become very dreary to look at due to fear.

51. O uplifter of the distressed, O ocean of mercy, redeem the gods, from this exigency. O great lord, save Indra from fright by killing that ruler of Dānavas.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

52. ‘On hearing the words of the gods, Śiva favourably disposed to his devotees spoke to them laughingly in the rumbling tone of the cloud.

*Lord Śiva said:—*

53. O Viṣṇu, O Brahmā, O Gods, return to your own abodes by all means. I shall kill Śaṅkhacūḍa along with his followers and attendants. There is no doubt about it.

*Sanatkumāra said:—*

54. On hearing the words of lord Śiva sweet as nectar they were excessively delighted considering the Dānava already killed.

55. After bowing to lord Śiva, Viṣṇu went to Vaikuṇṭha