

tention. You shall not enter the apartment either forcibly or humbly.

*Brahmā said:—*

54. The Gaṇas when decisively told by Gaṇeśa became ashamed. They went to Śiva. After bowing to him they stood in front of him.

55. Then they acquainted him with that news of wonderful nature. They joined their palms, stooped their shoulders, eulogised Śiva and stood in front of him.

56. On hearing the detailed news mentioned by his Gaṇas, Śiva replied following the worldly conventions.

*Śiva said:—*

57. O Gaṇas, hear you all. A battle may not be a proper course. You are all my own. He is Pārvatī's Gaṇa.

58. But if we are going to be humble, there is likely to be a rumour: "Śiva is subservient to his wife." O Gaṇas, this is certainly derogatory to me.

59. The policy of meeting an action with another (Tit for tat) is a weighty one. That single-handed Gaṇa is a mere boy. What valour can be expected of him ?

60. O Gaṇas, you are all experts in warfare and reputed to be so in the world. You are my own men. How can you forsake war and demean yourselves ?

61. How can a woman be obdurate especially with her husband ? Pārvatī will certainly derive the fruit of what she has done.

62. Hence, my heroic men, listen to my words with attention. This war has to be fought by all means. Let what is in store happen."

*Brahmā said:—*

63. O excellent sage, O brahmin, after saying thus, Śiva an adept in various divine sports became silent observing the ways of the world.