

41. Cast-off all these stupid notions. Seek refuge in Him. Worship Him exclusively. When He is propitiated He will bestow on you all that is auspicious and beneficent.

42. O Brahmā, if a thought surges in your heart that Śiva should take a wife unto Himself, you must perform penance directed to Śiva and think upon Śiva.

43. Meditate upon Śiva with that desire cherished in your heart. If that Goddess is propitiated she will do everything.

44. If Śivā takes an incarnation as a human being in Her attributive aspect, as the daughter of a person in the world, She will definitely become His wife.

45. O Brahmā, command Dakṣa. Let him carry out a penance strenuously with a great devotion to beget her to be given as a wife unto Śiva.

46. O dear, Śivā and Śiva are subservient to their devotees. This must be realised. Both of them being intrinsically the supreme Brahman can readily assume attributive form out of their own free will.

*Brahmā said:—*

47. After saying so, the lord of Lakṣmī thought upon his lord Śiva. Thanks to His favour, he received the real knowledge and spoke to me again.

*Viṣṇu said:—*

48. O Brahmā remember the words spoken by Śiva formerly when requested, due to His own will, by us at the time of our nativity.

49. Everything has been forgotten by you. Blessed indeed is the great illusion of Śiva which deludes everything. It is incomprehensible to all except Śiva.

50-51. When Śiva devoid of attributes became, out of His own accord, full of attributes, He created me first and then you with His own power in the course of His divine sport. The lord Śiva assigned to you the work of creation. O Brahman, the imperishable Śiva, the cause of creation, entrusted me with the task of sustaining it.

52-53. Then we requested Him “O Śiva, the lord of all, be pleased to take an incarnation with all your attributes.” Thus requested He laughed and spoke sympathetically, with