

Śiva said :—

43. “Where will you go, leaving me? You are not to be discarded again by me. I am delighted. Tell me what boon shall I grant you. There is nothing that cannot be given to you.

44. From today I am your slave bought by you by performing penance.⁴⁴ I have been bought by your beauty. Even a moment appears like a Yuga.

45. O Pārvatī, O great Goddess, you are my eternal wife. Let this shyness be eschewed. You please ponder with your keen intellect.

46. O steady-minded one, you have been tested by me in various ways. Let my guilt be excused in following this worldly game.

47. Even in the three worlds I do not see a beloved like you. O Pārvatī, in every respect I am subservient to you. You can fulfil all your desires.

48. O beloved, come on near me. You are my wife. I am your bridegroom. I shall immediately go to my abode—the excellent mountain, along with you.

Brahmā said :—

49. When the lord of the gods spoke in this way, Pārvatī rejoiced. Whatever distress she had felt during penance she cast off as something old.

50. O excellent sage, her weariness subsided. In fact, when the fruit is realised, the exertion felt during the process of undertaking perishes.

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CHAPTER TWENTYNINE

(*Śivā-Śiva dialogue*)

Nārada said :—

1. O Brahmā, O fortunate one, what happened thereafter? I wish to hear everything. Please narrate the glory of Pārvatī to me.

44. For the similarity of ideas and verbal expression, cp. Ibid V. 86.