

Gaṇas, Nandīśvara and others, purely carrying out the orders of Śiva, prevented her.

34. The discourse of Śivā and Śiva who represented the principles of Sāṁkhya and Vedānta and who, if thoughtfully considered, are not different from each other, was very happy and pleasing for ever.

35. At the request of the lord of mountains, Śiva permitted Pārvatī to remain with Him being true to His words though with all gravity and seriousness.

36. He, the lord of individual souls, said to Pārvatī in the company of her maids—"You can serve me everyday You can go (as you please). You can stay here fearlessly."

37. Saying this, He accepted the goddess in his service. Śiva is free from aberrations. He is a great Yogin, the lord who indulges in different kinds of divine sports.

38. This is the supreme courage of great ascetics possessed of fortitude that though surrounded by obstacles they are not overpowered by them.

39. Then, the lord of mountains, returned to his city and rejoiced in the company of his wife, the sages and attendants.

40. Śiva mentioned the Yoga of meditation on the great Ātman with His mind freed from obstacles.

41. Pārvatī, along with her maids, continued her daily service to the moon-crested lord, coming and going without any hindrance.

42. She washed Śiva's feet and drank that holy water. With a cloth heated in fire she wiped his body.

43. After worshipping Him with sixteen types of offerings duly, and bowing to Him repeatedly she used to return to her father's abode.

44. O excellent sage, a long time elapsed as she continued her service to Him who was engrossed in meditation.

45. Sometimes accompanied by her maids, she sang exquisite songs of good note that increased love in the hermitage of Śiva.

46. Sometimes she brought Kuśa grass, flowers and sacrificial twigs. Sometimes, assisted by her maids, she scrubbed and cleaned the place.

47. Sometimes she stayed in the house of the moon-cre-