

immanent being and the lord of all. Don't you know what is in our mind ? Still I speak at your bidding.

50. O Śiva, many kinds of miseries have befallen us due to the demon Tāraka. It is for that that you have been propitiated by the gods.

51. For attaining you Śivā is born of mountain Himācala. The demon's death can be at the hands of your son alone begotten of her.

52. This is the boon granted to him by Brahmā. Incapable of being killed by others, the demon harasses the entire universe.

53. At the instance of Nārada, she is performing a great penance. All the three worlds consisting of the mobile and immobile beings have been enveloped by her refulgence.

54. O lord Śiva, please go and grant Śivā the boon. O lord, destroy our misery and bestow happiness on us.

55. O Śiva, there is a great enthusiasm in my heart as well as in those of the gods to witness your marriage. Please get it performed in a fitting manner.

56. The opportune moment for the fulfilment of the boon granted by you to Ratī has arrived. Make your promise fruitful.

*Brahmā said :—*

57. After saying this and bowing to and eulogising Him with different hymns, Viṣṇu, the gods and the sages, all of us waited in front of Him.

58. On hearing the words of the gods Śiva, subservient to His devotees, laughed and replied. Śiva is a strict preserver of Vedic conventions.

*Śiva said :—*

59. O Viṣṇu, O Brahmā, O gods, all of you please hear with attention. I am going to say a specific thing in a suitable manner.

60. Marrying is not a proper thing for men. Marriage is a great fetter that binds firmly.

61. There are many base bondages in the world. Association with women is the toughest of all. One can free oneself from all bondages except that of women.