

him unhappy. That is why he desires to cause the fascination of Śiva who is free from mental aberration.

35. This Brahmā desires the favour of power from me to enchant Śiva. What does he gain thereby? The great lord is free from delusion and mental aberrations.

36. Always subservient to his bidding, I am a mere slave of Śiva, the supreme Brahman, the attributeless God who is free from depravity.

37. Śiva who is Parabrahman has become Rudra in a perfect and full-fledged incarnation and manifestation. It is to lift up His devotees that the independant lord has manifested like this.

38. Since He is the lord Viṣṇu and Brahmā, He can never be inferior to Śiva. He is respectfully adhering to Yoga practice. He is the lord of illusion but is not absorbed in it. He is the greatest of the great.

39. This Brahmā considers Him his son and on a par with ordinary devas. Hence, deluded by ignorance, he desires to delude Him.

40. If I do not grant him the boon, the convention established in the Vedas would be violated. Then what shall I do to prevent the great lord being angry with me.

*Brahmā said :—*

41. After pondering thus Śivā thought of Śiva. After getting the permission of Śiva, she said to me:—

*Durgā said:-*

42. O Brahmā, what you said is entirely true. There is no other lady to fascinate Śiva.

43. A great truth has been pointed out by you that if Śiva does not take a wife unto Himself, the creation cannot continue long.

44. I too had been endeavouring to enchant this great lord. After your request my efforts shall be redoubled.

45. I shall so endeavour that Śiva should take a wife unto Himself, being thus deluded Himself, O Brahmā.

46. I shall take up the body of Satī and be subservient to Him even as Lakṣmī the Goddess of Fortune is the beloved of Viṣṇu.