

caused by Pārvatī's penance. I shall now go to lord Śiva accompanied by all of you.

32. O gods, we shall request lord Śiva to approach Pārvatī and marry her for the welfare of all the worlds.

33. We shall do everything necessary to make the Pināka-bearing lord of the gods go there to grant the boon to Śivā.

34. Therefore now we shall go to the place where the great lord Śiva of severe penance, the conferrer of all auspicious things, stays.

*Brahmā said :—*

35. On hearing those words of Viṣṇu, the gods and the rest became excessively afraid of Śiva, the furious, the annihilator and the one desirous of burning everything.

*The gods said :—*

36. We dare not go near the great lord Śiva who is very terrifying, furious and who has the burning brilliance of the deadly fire of dissolution.

37. Undoubtedly he will burn us all in His anger as Kāma, the indefatigable god, has been burnt by him.

*Brahmā said :—*

38. O sage, on hearing the words of Indra and others, Viṣṇu, the lord of Lakṣmī spoke these words, consoling all the gods.

*Viṣṇu said :—*

39. O gods, listen with pleasure and attention to my words. The lord, the destroyer of the fear of gods, will not consume you in fire.

40. Considering Śiva to be benevolent you shall shrewdly seek refuge in Him.

41. We shall all seek refuge in Śiva, the ancient Puruṣa, the lord, of excellent features, greater than the greatest, the supreme self, the great one resorting to penance.