

*Nārada said :—*

42. O great lord, lord of gods, listen to my auspicious words. O lord, there is no fear of any hindrance in the celebration of marriage.

43. The lord of mountains will surely give his daughter to you. It is certainly to take you there that these mountains have come here.

44. But to delude the gods a wonderful spell has been created. O omniscient, it is only to inspire curiosity. There is no possibility of any obstacle.

45. O lord, Viśvakarman, a great expert in creating illusion has constructed a peculiar altar in his house at his instance. It is full of surprising things.

46. A fascinating assembly of gods has been built there. On seeing it I was deluded by his skill and was struck with surprise.

*Brahmā said :—*

47. O dear, on hearing your words, the lord Śiva following the worldly convention, laughingly spoke to Viṣṇu and other gods.

*Śiva said :—*

48. O Viṣṇu, if the mountain Himavat gives his daughter to me, what have I to do with this spell? Speak to me what is true.

49. O Brahmā, O Indra, O sages, O gods, speak truly. What have I to do with the spell if the mountain gives his daughter ?

50. It is held by scholars, knowing cogent reasons, that somehow or other the fruit should be achieved. Hence you, with Viṣṇu at the head, will hasten seeking only the task on hand.

*Brahmā said :—*

51. Discussing thus with gods, Śiva appeared to be completely overpowered by Kāma like an ordinary man.

52-54. At the bidding of Śiva, Viṣṇu and other gods, the noble sages and others, O sage, kept you and mountains at the head and started for the abode of Himavat. They