

48. That river breaks the western wing of the mountain Candrabhāga even as Gaṅgā of the mountain Himālaya and flows towards the sea.

49. Seeing Sandhyā on the bank of the lake Bṛhallohita on that mountain Candrabhāga, Vasiṣṭha asked her respectfully.

*Vasiṣṭha said :—*

50. “O good lady, why have you come to this mountain devoid of men ? Whose daughter are you ? What is it that you intend to do ?

51. I wish to know this if it is not a secret. How is it that your face resembling the full moon is expressionless and inactive ?”

52-53. On hearing the words of the noble-souled Vasiṣṭha and seeing him blazing like fire, shining like Brahmācārya (Celibacy) personified, Sandhyā bowed to the sage wearing matted hair and spoke to him respectfully.

*Sandhyā said :—*

54. “O fearless (sage), know that the purpose for which I came to this mountain has already been achieved or rather will be achieved by your very sight.

55. O sage, I came to this mountain devoid of men to perform penance. I am the daughter of Brahmā and am known as Sandhyā.

56. If it be proper and not inconvenient for you please instruct me. This is what I expect of you. There is nothing to be kept secret in this.

57. Without knowing the procedure of penance I have come to this penance grove. Due to this worry I am perplexed and my heart trembles”.

58. On hearing her words, Vasiṣṭha, the most excellent among the knowers of Brahman, well-versed in every rite did not ask anything further.

59. After remembering Śiva favourably disposed to the devotees he addressed the lady who had controlled herself and was preparing for the penance.