

63-64. Kāma could not conquer Śiva as he did not hit at any vulnerable point although he tried it by means of his flower-arrows. But He, without being hit by Kāma's arrows, has now abandoned meditation on Ātman and begun to think of Satī. He is as excited as any other ordinary man.

65. He asks His attendants "where is Satī ?", as He suffers from the pang of separation. When they say "No", He hears the words but soon forgets them and repeats the question.

66. O son, what has been desired by me before, by you, by Kāma and the sages—Marīci and others, has been achieved now.

67. Śiva was propitiated by your daughter. He now stays in the Himālayan mountains thinking about her and desirous of getting her in order to console her.

68. Just as Śiva has been worshipped by her by performing different rites with Sāttvic feelings, so also Satī is being worshipped by Him.

69. Hence, O Dakṣa, offer immediately your daughter to Śiva for whom she has been intended. Thereby you will get contentment and relief.

70. Through Nārada I shall bring Him here. Give her to Him for whom she has been intended.

71. On hearing these words of mine, my son Dakṣa was highly delighted. He said delightfully. "It is so. It is so."

72. O sage, I too delightfully went to the place where Śiva was eagerly waiting.

73. At my departure Dakṣa, along his wife and daughter, felt contented as if he had been filled with nectar.

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

(*Marriage of Śiva and Satī*)

Nārada said:—

1. When you approached Śiva, what was it that transpired ? What were the events ? What did Śiva Himself do ?