

minerals. It contained different trees and creepers.

25-26. Many kinds of deer roamed and many kinds of birds hovered there. The celestial and Siddha damsels sported about in different springs and pools along with their husbands and lovers. It contained many caves and ridges. It shone with various kinds of trees and had a silver lustre.

27. It was infested with big animals, tigers and others who were free from cruelty. It was of divine nature endowed with shining brilliance. It inspired great surprise and wonder.

28. The river Gaṅgā originating from the holy abode of Satī, sanctifying everything flowed there and so the place was very clean.

29. On seeing this mountain named Kailāsa, a great favourite of Śiva, Viṣṇu and other devas were surprised along with the excellent sages.

30. Near it, the gods saw Alakā³³⁷, the beautiful and divine city of Kubera—a friend of Rudra.

31. Near that they saw the sylvan park Saugandhika which contained all kinds of trees. The sound originating from it was surprisingly divine.

32. Outskirting it are the two holy rivers Nandā³³⁸ and Alakanandā that quelled sins by their mere sight.

33. The celestial damsels descending to them from their world drank their waters. Emaciated for their sexual dalliance with their menfolk they entered them for their sports.

34. After going beyond Alakā, the capital of the king of Yakṣas and the Saugandhika park, they saw the fig-tree of Śiva.

35. The fig tree had steady shade all round. It had a number of suspended branches without hanging roots. Its height was a hundred Yojanas. It had no nests on it. It afforded protection from heat.

36. It was the place where Śiva practised Yoga. It was divine. It was resorted to by other Yogins. It was great and excellent. It could be seen only by the excessively meritorious persons. It was beautiful and sacred.

337. See Note No.226 P. 265.

338. Nandā, Alakanandā and Bhāgīrathī are three famous branches of Gaṅgā in the upper course in the Pauri-Garhwal region.