

and tender me wholesome advice". When she said thus, the staff-bearing brahmin stopped and spoke.

*The brahmin said :—*

10. If you are stopping me with devotion, truly desirous of hearing then I shall explain everything whereby you may gain some wisdom.

11. I know Śiva through and through with all His weighty attributes. I shall tell you the truth. Listen with attention.

12. The great lord is bull-bannered. His body is smeared with ashes. His hair is matted. He is clad in the hide of a tiger. He has covered His body with the hide of an elephant.

13. He holds the skull. Serpents twine round His limbs. Poison has left a mark on his neck. He eats even forbidden stuffs. He has odd eyes and is definitely awful.

14. His birth and pedigree cannot be traced. He is devoid of the enjoyment of a householder. He has ten arms. He is mostly naked and is ever accompanied by ghosts and goblins.

15. What is the reason whereby you wish Him to be your husband? O gentle lady, where has your wisdom gone? Think well and tell me.

16. A previous terrible activity of His has been heard by me. If you are interested in hearing I shall tell you.

17. Dakṣa's daughter, the chaste lady Satī wooed Vṛṣabhavāhana (Śiva) as her husband. Fortunately their union was well known.

18. Satī was discarded by Dakṣa because she was the wife of the skull-bearing Śiva. Śiva too was eschewed in the allocation of shares in the sacrifice.

19. On account of the insult Satī was infuriated and she discarded her dear life. Śiva too was abandoned by her.

20. You are a jewel among women. Your father is the king of all mountains. Why do you crave for a husband like this and that too by means of a severe penance?

21. Handing over a gold coin you wish to buy a piece