

during the interval before the Lagna.

49. Repeating the Puṇyāha mantras, Garga lifted the handful of rice-grains and handing them over to Pārvatī he made her shower it on Śiva.

50. Śiva was duly worshipped by the joyful and sweet-faced Pārvatī with the rice-grains mixed with curd and Darbha water.

51. Gazing at Śiva for whom great penance had been performed by her formerly, Pārvatī shone beaming with pleasure.

52. Requested by me and the sages Garga and others, Śiva, following the worldly conventions worshipped her.

53. Thus, worshipping each other Śiva and Pārvatī identifying themselves with the universe, shone well.

54. Both of them, enveloped by the glory of the three worlds and gazing at each other, were offered the Nirājana by Lakṣmī and other ladies particularly.

55. The brahmin ladies and the citizen ladies performed the Nirājana rites. All of them derived great pleasure and gaiety on seeing Śiva and Pārvatī.

CHAPTER FORTYEIGHT

(Description of Marriage)

Brahmā said:—

1. In the meantime, urged by the priest Garga Himavat started the rite of marriage in the company of Menā.

2. Himavat and Menā held the gold pot on either side. Himavat was bedecked in fine clothes and ornaments.

3. The joyous mountain with the assistance of his priest wooed the bridegroom after offering water, clothes, ornaments, sandal paste etc.

4. Then the brahmins were requested by Himavat