

Brahmā said :—

42. Thus urged by the great lord Viṣṇu they set out desirous of seeing the Pināka-bearing lord Śiva.

43. At first Viṣṇu and others who were anxious to see the penance of Pārvatī went to her hermitage which was on the way.

44. On seeing the excellent penance of Pārvatī and being enveloped by her refulgence they bowed to her who was engaged in penance and who had brilliant features.

45. After praising the penance of Pārvatī whose body was achievement personified, the gods went to the place where the bull-bannered lord was present.

46. After reaching there the gods sent you in, O sage, and stood at a distance from Śiva who had reduced Kāma to ashes. They were watching.

47. O Nārada, you the fearless devotee of Śiva approached Śiva and saw the lord extremely pleased.

48. O sage, you came back again and beckoning to the gods, with effort you took them, Viṣṇu and others, to Him.

49. Then Viṣṇu and other gods went there and saw lord Śiva, favourably disposed to His devotees, delighted and comfortably seated.

50-51. Then Viṣṇu, the gods, the Siddhas, the sages and I bowed to and eulogised Śiva seated in the Yogic posture, surrounded by the Gaṇas. He was seated in the form of penance. We eulogised Him with hymns from the Vedas and Upaniṣads.

CHAPTER TWENTYFOUR

(Śiva consents to marry Pārvatī)

The gods said :—

1. Obeisance to lord Śiva, obeisance to the destroyer of Kāma; obeisance, obeisance to one worthy of eulogy; to one of profuse splendour, to the three-eyed lord.

2. Obeisance to Śiva clad in skin; obeisance to the