

CHAPTER FIFTYFOUR

(Description of the duties of the chaste wife)

Brahmā said:—

1. Then the seven sages spoke to the lord of the mountains—"O mountain, make arrangements for the journey of your daughter today itself."

2. O great sage, on hearing these words and knowing her pangs of separation, the lord of mountains was greatly affected by his love towards her and remained silent for a short while.

3. After some time, the lord of the mountains regained his consciousness and said—"Let it be so". He then sent the message to Menā.

4. O sage, on hearing the message of the mountain, Menā was both delighted and sorry. She immediately set about arranging for her journey.

5. O sage, Menā, the beloved of the mountain, made arrangements for all kinds of festivities in accordance with the tradition of her family and the injunctions of the Vedas.

6. She bedecked Pārvatī with twelve kinds of ornaments and good silken garments of nice border. All kinds of embellishments befitting her royal state were made.

7. Realising Menā's inclinations a chaste brahmin lady instructed Pārvatī in the duties of a chaste wife.

The brahmin lady said:—

8. O Pārvatī, listen to my words with love that accentuate righteousness, that increase the pleasure here and hereafter and afford happiness to those who pay heed to them.

9. A chaste lady sanctifies the worlds, destroys sins and is blessed. None else is so worthy of respect.

10. O Pārvatī, she who serves her husband with love and considers him her sole lord, enjoys all pleasures here and obtains salvation hereafter along with her husband.

11-13. The chaste ladies—Sāvitṛī, Lopāmudrā,