

5. The happiness of the parents knew no bounds. The son too used to sport in joy and love.

6. O great sage, the sons rendered great service to their parents with great devotion.

7. The love and affection of the parents towards the six-faced lord and Gaṇeśa increased to a great extent like the moon in the bright half of the month.

8. O celestial sage, once the loving parents Pārvatī and Śiva held a secret talk and discussion.

9. They thought that the two sons had attained to marriageable age and how best their marriage should be celebrated now.

10. The sixfaced lord Kārttikeya was their great beloved son. Gaṇeśa too was likewise. Thinking thus they were worried as well as delighted.

11. O sage, coming to know of their parents' opinion, the sons too were eager to get married.

12. "I shall marry, I shall marry" saying thus to each other they always quarrelled with each other.

13. The couple, the rulers of the worlds, on hearing their words, were very much surprised, following the worldly conventions.

14. A wonderful expedient was devised by them after thinking about the course to be followed in the celebration of their marriage.

15. Once they called the sons to them and spoke as follows.

*Śiva and Pārvatī said:—*

16. O good sons, we have framed the rules conducive to your happiness. Listen lovingly. We shall tell you the truth.

17. Both of you are good sons and equal in our eyes. There is no difference. Hence a condition that is beneficial to both of you has been made.

18. The auspicious marriage will be celebrated of that boy who comes here first after going round the entire earth.

*Brahmā said:—*

19. On hearing their words, the powerful Kumāra