

mobile and immobile as well as the gods and the sages are excited.

*Brahmā said:—*

49. After saying this, O great sage, all the depressed gods, stood silent along with me in front of Viṣṇu with great misery.

50. On hearing those words, Viṣṇu took us all immediately to the mountain Kailāsa, the favourite haunt of Śiva.

51. After going there in the company of the gods and me, the favourite deity of the gods went to the excellent resort of Śiva with a desire to see Śiva.

52. Unable to see Him there, Viṣṇu and the gods became surprised. With humility he asked the Gaṇas of Śiva who were there.

*Viṣṇu said:—*

53. O Gaṇas of Śiva, where has Śiva, the lord of all gone? Sympathetically intimate this to us who are depressed.

*Brahmā said:—*

54. On hearing these words of Viṣṇu in the company of the gods, the Gaṇas of Śiva lovingly replied to Viṣṇu.

*The Gaṇas of Śiva said:—*

55. O Viṣṇu, please listen along with Brahmā and the gods, we shall tell you the truth and the details out of love for Śiva.

56. Śiva, the lord of all, had gone into the apartment of Pārvatī after stationing us here with love. He is an expert in indulging in divine sports.

57. O lord of Lakṣmī, many years have gone by. We do not know what Śiva, the great lord, is doing within her apartment.

*Brahmā said:—*

58. On hearing their words, O excellent sage, Viṣṇu, the gods and I were perplexed and went to the doorway of Śiva's apartment.