

rays of the sun turned in vapours like the hearts of the people turning pure in association with the good.²⁷⁶

39. The nights became bright with the moon devoid of mist. Lovely women shone beautifully in the company of their lovers.

40. In this atmosphere, on that excellent mountain, Lord Śiva sported about for a long time among the groves, hedges and streams in the company of Satī.

41. O sage, then Satī so exercised her splendid influence on Śiva that he did not have mental peace without her even for a moment.

42. The goddess satisfied his mind in fulness in the matter of intercourse. She seemed to enter his body. He made her drink that juice.

43. With garlands of flowers wreathed by himself he decorated her person and felt new pleasures.

44. With diverse conversations, glances, joking remarks and exchanges of pleasantries he instructed Śiva in the knowledge of Self.

45. Drinking the nectar from her moon-face, Śiva stabilised his body. Sometimes he experienced exhilarating and particularly pleasing state.

46. Just as a huge elephant that is bound with ropes cannot have any other activity. He was also bound by the sweet fragrance of her lotus-like face, her beauty and her jocular pleasantries.

47. Thus in the ridges and caverns of the Himālayan mountains, the lord sported about in the company of Satī every day. According to the calculation of the devas twenty five years elapsed, O celestial sage, during which he dallied thus.

276. The text of the second half of the verse is corrupt; hence the translation of that portion is conjectural.