

the brahmin. Desirous of hearing the Purāṇa she stayed there rendering service to him.

30. The intelligent brahmin devotee narrated the Purāṇic story to the woman on the spot.

31. In this manner she listened to the excellent story of Śivapurāṇa in that holy centre from that excellent brahmin.

32. On hearing that excellent story that heightened devotion, knowledge and detachment and yielded liberation, she became greatly blessed.

33. Favoured by the good preceptor she quickly gained purity of mind. By the blessings of Śiva she could meditate on Śiva's forms and features.

34. Thus, resorting to the good preceptor, her mind was drawn towards Śiva. She constantly meditated on the sentient blissful body of Śiva.

35—36. She wore barks of trees and had her hair matted. She smeared ashes over her body. She wore garlands of Rudrākṣa beads. Every day she took her ablutions in the sacred water. She regularly repeated Śiva's names. She regulated her speech and diet. She propitiated Lord Śiva in the manner advised by the preceptor.

37. O Śaunaka, thus for a long time Cañculā continued her meditation on Lord Śiva.

38. When the stipulated period was over, Cañculā in her practice of the three-fold<sup>16</sup> devotion cast-off her body without any difficulty.

39. The divine aerial chariot shining in brilliant colours, sent by Tripurāri<sup>17</sup> (Śiva) Himself, accompanied by His attendants, arrived there quickly.

40. With her dirt and sin removed she mounted the aerial chariot and was immediately taken to Śiva's city by the lord's noble attendants.

41. She assumed a divine form. Her limbs were divine in their features. She assumed the form of Gaurī with the

16. The three kinds of devotion are :—(1) the devotion of hearing (śravaṇa), (2) of glorifying (Kīrtana) and (3) of deliberating (manana) the attributes of God. ŚP. VS. 3. 21-25

17. Śiva is called Tripurāri, the slayer of Tripura, for he killed the demon Tripura who presided over three cities of gold, silver and iron in the sky, air and earth built for demons by Maya.