

of mountains. She is the daughter of Menakā named Kālī but famous as Pārvatī.

35. She is not married to anyone nor does she desire any other than Śiva for her husband. She has performed this penance for three thousand years.

36. It was for that purpose that my friend started penance like this. I shall tell you the reason. Listen, O excellent brahmin, O saintly one.

37. Leaving off Indra and other gods, Viṣṇu and Brahmā, Pārvatī wishes to attain the Pināka-bearing Śiva as her husband.

38. She my friend planted many trees before. O brahmin, all of them have put forth flowers and fruits.

39-40. My friend has been performing severe penance at the bidding of Nārada to make her beauty fruitful, to embellish her father's race and to bless Kāma. She has directed this penance to lord Śiva. O holy ascetic, how is it that her desire is not fulfilled.

41. O excellent brahmin, you enquired of her desire. I have just told you out of my love for her. What else do you wish to hear.

*Brahmā said :—*

42. On hearing these truthful words of Vijayā, O sage, Śiva who came disguised as an ascetic said laughingly.

*The ascetic said :—*

43. The maid has said something, but I deduce only a huge joke therefrom. If it be true, let the gentle lady herself speak out.

*Brahmā said :—*

44. When these words were uttered by that brahmin ascetic, goddess Pārvatī spoke to the brahmin thus.