

favourably disposed to her devotees, replied to her chaperon Cañculā, delighted in her heart.

*Pārvatī said :—*

22. If your husband were to hear the holy story of Śiva, he shall surmount the misery entirely and attain salvation.

23. On hearing these words of Gaurī, little short of nectar, she bent her shoulders, joined her palms and bowed repeatedly with great devotion.

24. She requested the goddess to provide an opportunity for her husband to hear the story for quelling his sins and gaining redemption.

*Sūta said :—*

25. Gaurī, the beloved of Śiva, on being frequently requested by the woman, took pity on her, (making it clear thereby that) she was favourably disposed to her devotees.

26. Lovingly she sent for the Gandharva king Tumburu who used to sing songs of praise of Śiva. The daughter of Himālaya said thus to him.

*Girijā said :—*

27. O Tumburu, the favourite of Śiva, ever ready to do as I wish, blessedness be thine. Accompany this lady immediately to Vindhya mountain.

28. There is an awfully terrible Piśāca there. I shall tell you all his antecedents. You will be interested to know the same.

29. This Piśāca had been a brahmin in his previous birth. Then he was the husband of this woman who is my chaperon now. He was very wicked and had a Śudra concubine.

30. He was impure, never caring for the daily performance of ablutions and Sandhyā prayers. His mind was ever vitiated by anger. He ate all sorts of foul things. He quarrelled with good men and whatever he undertook had been bad.

31. He was violent in his ways, bearing weapons and oppressing poor people cruelly. He used to take food with his left hand. He used to commit arson in other people's house.