

pleasant words:—

Śiva said :—

24. Sages are always to be adored and particularly you all. O brahmins, it was for a specific reason that you have been summoned here.

25. My attitude of being helpful is known to you. That must be achieved, especially in the interest of the fulfilment of the desires of the world.

26. Cause for great misery has arisen for the gods at the hands of Tāraka the wicked. Boon has already been granted. He is invincible. What shall I do ?

27. O great sages, all the eight cosmic bodies⁴⁹ that I possess are not for furthering my self-interest, they are for helping the wide world.

28-29. A great penance has been performed by Pārvatī. That cannot be performed even by great sages. I have to give her the great fruit thereof. Indeed my vow is to render delight to my devotees. The fruit I bestow on her shall be conducive to her welfare. Hence I wish to marry her.

30. At the request of Pārvatī I went to the abode of the mountain in the guise of a mendicant. Clever in divine sports I thereby sanctified her.

31. On hearing to know that I am the supreme Brahman, the couple were desirous of giving me their daughter with great devotion in accordance with the Vedic manner.

32. On the inducement of the gods, in order to reduce the quality of devotion (of Himavat and Menā) I took the guise of a devotee of Viṣṇu and rebuked myself.

33. O sages, on hearing it they were dejected and have now lost interest in me and do not wish to give their daughter to me.

34. Hence you all go to the abode of Himavat and urge the excellent mountain and his wife.

35. Speak out the words as venerable as the Vedas. Do everything necessary to get the matter straightened out and settled.

36. O excellent ones, I wish to marry their daughter.

49. On the eightfold image of Śiva, see Note 89 P. 132.