

refuge in you, please carry out the task of your devotees. O lord, please listen to my submission.

47. O Śiva, let the rites of your marriage with the daughter of the lord of mountains be performed according to the laws laid down in the Gṛhya Sūtras.

48. The rites followed in your marriage, O Śiva, will become famous and be followed in the world.

49. Please cause the construction of the altar and the Nāndīmukha<sup>97</sup> according to family tradition. Thus you will be spreading your glory in the world, O lord.

*Brahmā said :—*

50. Lord Śiva thus requested by Viṣṇu, and being himself eager to follow worldly conventions performed the same duly.

51. Authorised by Him, I performed all the rites conducive to prosperity, assisted by the sages.

52-55. The sages Kaśyapa, Atri, Vasiṣṭha, Gautama, Bhāguri, Bṛhaspati, Kaṇva, Śakti,<sup>98</sup> Jamadagni, Parāśara, Mārkaṇḍeya, Śilāpāka, Aruṇapāla, Akṛtaśrama, Agastya, Cyavana, Garga, Śilāda, Dadhici, Upamanyu, Bharadvāja, Akṛtavraṇa, Pippalāda, Kuśika, Kautsa, Vyāsa, with his disciples, and other sages came to Śiva. Urged by me they performed the sacred rites duly.

56. All of them who had mastered the Vedas and Vedāṅgas performed the safety rites for Śiva and tied the auspicious thread round his wrist.

57. By reciting hymns from Ṛk, Yajus, and Sāman they performed the holy rites. All the sages were greatly pleased.

58. In order to ward off obstacles they performed the adoration of the planets under my instruction. They worshipped the gods stationed in the altar.

59. After performing the social and Vedic rites in a fitting manner Śiva became pleased and bowed to the brahmins joyously.

60. Then the lord of all started from the excellent

97. Nāndīmukha is a Śrāddha ceremony performed in memory of the Manes, preliminary to any festive occasion such as marriage.

98. Śakti was the eldest son of Vasiṣṭha.