

temples, plants grow; need I mention the growth of plants elsewhere?

12. With the clusters of clouds dark, silvery and red in colour clinging to the Mandara mountain (peak), Himālaya appears as the ocean of milk with the birds of diverse colours.

13. Unrivalled splendour has resorted to the Kīmśuka flowers devoid of odour, as Lakṣmī (the Goddess of fortune) abandons good people and resorts to the crooked, whether of high or low birth.

14. The peacocks are delighted at the sound of the cloud over the Mandara mountain. Their gleeful cackles and out-stretched tails indicate the incessant pleasure of their heart.

15. The sweet and delightful sounds of the Cātaka birds that are fond of clouds fall upon the way-farers like the arrows of rain-showers causing incessant pain.

16. See the wickedness perpetrated by the clouds on my body. They are pelting it with hailstones. But they cover and protect the peacocks and Cātakas who are their followers.

17. On seeing the distress of peacocks and deer from even their friend (sun), the swans go even to the distant Mānasa lake on the top of the mountain.

18. In this troublesome time, even crows and Cakora birds build their nests. But you don't. Without a home how will you be happy?

19. O Pināka-bearer Śiva, let not the great fear originating from clouds befall us. Hence endeavour for a residence. Do not delay. Heed my words.

20. O bull-emblem God, either in Kailāsa or in the Himālayas or in Mahākāśī on the earth you make a befitting habitation.

*Brahmā said :—*

21. Thus advised by Satī frequently Śiva laughed provoking a smile from the moon on his head by way of its beams.

22. Then the high-souled lord Śiva who knew all the

278. Pināka-dhṛk. It is the name of Śiva derived from wielding a staff, bow or trident.