

and other sages glanced at them furiously. She did not say anything.

36. Then the sages bowed at her lotus like feet and spoke to her in low voice with devotion joining their palms in reverence.

The sages said:—

37. O goddess, forgive, forgive. The final dissolution seems near at hand. Your lord is standing here. O mother, you see him.

38. What are we, the gods, Viṣṇu, Brahmā and others? We are only your subjects. We stand here with palms joined in reverence.

39. O great goddess, our guilts shall be forgiven. We are agitated and distressed. O Pārvatī give us peace.

Brahmā said:—

40. After saying this, the agitated and distressed sages stood in front of her with palms joined in reverence.

41. On hearing their words Pārvatī was pleased and she replied to the sages with her mind full of compassion.

The goddess said:—

42-43. If my son regains life there may not be further annihilation. If you can arrange for him an honourable status and position among you as the chief presiding officer, there may be peace in the world. Otherwise you will never be happy.

Brahmā said:—

44. Thus warned, you and other sages returned and intimated to all the gods everything in detail.

45. On hearing that, Indra and other gods joined their palms in reverence and piteously intimated to Śiva what had transpired there.

46. On hearing what the gods said, Śiva spoke thus—
“It shall be done accordingly so that there may be peace over all the worlds.”

47. “You shall go to the northern direction and what-