

29. On hearing the words of the gods, lord Śiva agreed to the proposal. He made the gods return after assuring them smilingly.

30. Hastening to their abodes, the gods rejoiced much considering their work fully fulfilled and praising Sadāśiva.

31. Then the lord Śiva who is favourably disposed to his devotees, the lord of magic and free from aberrations went to the lord of mountains.

32-33. When the lord of the mountains was seated in his royal assembly along with Pārvatī and kinsmen, Sadāśiva came there, in the meantime bearing a staff and an umbrella. He was dressed in divine clothes and had a shining mark on the forehead.

34. He was in the guise of a saintly brahmin. He was repeating the name of Viṣṇu with devotion. He had the garland of crystal beads in his hand and the Śālagrama stone round his neck.

35. On seeing that extraordinary guest, Himavat with his attendants stood up in reverence and prostrated before him with devotion.

36. Pārvatī bowed with devotion to her dear lover in the guise of a brahmin. On realising him mentally the goddess eulogised him with great joy.

37. With great pleasure Śiva bestowed his blessings on all. O dear, He bestowed on Pārvatī her cherished desire in addition.

38. The brahmin received with pleasure the articles of homage⁴⁷ etc. offered by Himavat, the lord of mountains.

39. O sage, after duly worshipping the excellent brahmin with pleasure, the mountain Himavat enquired of his welfare.

40. Again, the lord of mountains asked him "Who are you, please ?" Immediately the chief of brahmins, spoke to the lord of mountains thus.

The chief of brahmins said:—

41. O foremost among mountains, I am a brahmin

⁴⁷ Madhuparka is a mixture of honey, butter, sugar, curd and water offered to a guest when he first comes to the house.