

*Lord Śiva said:—*

23. O Pārvatī, O upholder of the Sāṃkhya system, if you say so, O sweet-voiced lady, you render me unforbidden service every day.

24. If I am the Brahman, the supreme lord, unsullied by illusion, comprehensible through spiritual knowledge and the master of illusion what will you do then ?

*Brahmā said :—*

25. Having spoken to Pārvatī thus, the lord, the conciliator and the blesser of the devotees spoke to the mountain thus.

*Śiva said :—*

26. O lord of mountains, here itself on your beautiful excellent ridge, I shall perform my penance showing to the world my real blissful form and nature.

27. O lord of mountains, permission shall be given to me to perform penance. Without your permission it is not possible for me (or any one else) to perform any penance here.

*Brahmā said :—*

28. On hearing these words of Śiva, the lord of gods, Himavat bowed to Śiva and said.

*Himavat said :—*

29. The entire universe consisting of gods, Asuras and human beings, is yours. O great god, though insignificant, I blabber something to you.

*Brahmā said:—*

30. Thus addressed by Himavat, Śiva, the benefactor of the worlds, laughingly permitted him to go.

31. Permitted by Śiva, Himavat returned to his abode along with Pārvatī. He wanted to visit Him daily.

32. Even without her father but accompanied by her maids, Pārvatī approached Śiva everyday for serving Him with devotion.

33. O dear, at the bidding of lord Śiva, none of the