

devotees, on being thus requested by you replied very delightedly to you.

*Śiva said :—*

21. O sage, on my behalf, invite all the gods beginning with Viṣṇu, and sages, Siddhas and others.

22. Giving due weightage to my bidding, may all of them come here enthusiastically, in all their splendour along with their women and children.

23. O sage, those who do not take part in the celebration of my marriage, are not my people, even if they are the gods.

*Brahmā said :—*

24. Paying heed to this behest of Śiva, O sage, you, a great favourite of Śiva, invited all of them approaching everyone severally.

25. O Nārada, after carrying out your duties as his emissary you, the great sage, returned to Śiva and remained there with His permission.

26. Śiva too waited there eagerly expecting their arrival while his attendants were celebrating great festivities by dance and songs.

27. At the same time, Viṣṇu, along with his retinue, came there suitably dressed.

28. Accompanied by his wife and followers he bowed to Śiva with great devotion and joy, and with his permission stayed there in a good abode.

29. I too accompanied by my attendants went to Kailāsa. After bowing to the lord, I too waited there with pleasure along with my followers.

30. Indra and other guardians of the quarters came there with their retinue and womenfolk richly decorated and in festive mood.

31. Similarly the sages, the Nāgas, the Siddhas, the secondary gods and others who had been duly invited came there in jovial mood.

32. Lord Śiva duly received and welcomed all those gods and others severally.

33. Then a great festival was celebrated at Kailāsa.