

spoke "As you please give unto me, O bestower of boons, the desired boon or the bridegroom of my desire, without any hindrance," the full-embled deity Śiva who is favourably disposed to his devotees, did not wait for the completion of her request and said—"you be my wife."

16. On hearing his words embracing the fruits of her cherished desire she kept silent. She was highly delighted on obtaining the boon (or bridegroom) stationed in her mind.

17. She stood smiling sweetly before Śiva who was full of love. She opened her inmost feelings through various subtle gestures that increased notions of love.

18. Taking up these notions, gestures and feelings, the flavour of love called Śṛṅgāra entered their hearts.

19. O celestial sage, by the advent of the flavour of love, a peculiar glow, in the usual manner of worldly sports, was manifest in them as in the star Citrā and the moon.²⁶⁷

20. In the presence of Śiva whose body shone with the brilliance of crystal, Satī who had the glossy brilliance of split collyrium, shone like a line of cloud near the moon.

21. The delighted daughter of Dakṣa with her palms joined frequently in reverence, joyfully spoke to Śiva who is favourably disposed to His devotees.

Satī said :—

22. O great lord of Devas, lord of the universe, please take me with due marital rites in the presence of my father.

Brahmā said :—

23. On hearing these words of Satī, Śiva, favourably disposed to His devotees, glanced lovingly at her and said—"So be it."

24. The daughter of Dakṣa bowed to Śiva with devotion, sought and received His consent and returned to her mother with a fascinating gaiety.

²⁶⁷. For the similarity of ideas and verbal expression, compare Kālidāsa's *Raghuvamśa* I. 46.

काप्यभिरूपा तयोरासीद् व्रजतोः शुद्धवेषयोः ।

हिमनिर्मुक्तयोर्योगे चित्राचन्द्रमसोरिव ॥