

24. "Even when forbidden by us why do you go?" Although he was prevented by saying this, he went away saying "No".

25. "O parents, I shall not stay here even a moment when deception has been practised on me eschewing affection towards me."

26. O sage, he went away saying so. Even today he is staying there removing the sin of all by his very vision.

27. Ever since that day, O celestial sage, the son of Śiva, Kārttikeya remains a bachelor.

28. His name bestows auspiciousness in the world. It is famous in the three worlds. It dispels all sins, is meritorious and confers the sanctity of celibacy.

29. In the month of Kārttika, the gods, the holy sages and great ascetics go there to see Kumāra.

30. He who has the vision of the lord in the Kṛttikā Nakṣatra in the month of Kārttika is divested of all sins. He derives all desired fruits.

31. Pārvatī became grief-stricken by separation from Skanda. She piteously told her lord. "O lord, let us go there."

32. Śiva went to that mountain partially for her happiness. He assumed the pleasing form of Jyotirliṅga named Mallikārjuna.<sup>172</sup>

33. Even now Śiva is seen there with Pārvatī satisfying the desires of his devotees. He is the goal of the good.

34. On coming to know that Śiva had come there with Pārvatī, Kumāra became unattached and was eager to go elsewhere.

35. On being requested by the gods and sages he stayed in a place three Yojanas away.

36. O Nārada, on the full and new moon days, Pārvatī and Śiva are excited by love towards their son and they go there to see him.

37. On new moon days, Śiva himself goes there. On full moon days, Pārvatī goes there certainly.

172. According to the present context the Mallikārjuna Jyotirliṅga was established on the Krauñca mountain. It is difficult to know how it came to be identified with the one on Śrīśaila overhanging the Kṛṣṇā river in the south.