

Siddha²⁸⁴ ladies resided, which could not be reached by birds and which shone with lakes and forests.

56. The top was of variegated colours as of various gems, embellished by lotuses of diverse forms, shapes and lustre. Śiva in the company of Satī reached that top which shone like the rising sun.

57-64. On the top of the mountain near the city of Himālaya, Śiva sported about for a long time in the company of Satī. It was a very beautiful place which abounded in crystalline clouds. It shone with grassy plains and plenty of trees. There were various flowers in abundance. It had many lakes. The boughs of the full-blown and blossomed trees were surrounded by humming bees. Lotuses and blue lilies were in full bloom. Different kinds of birds flew there, such as—Cakravāka Kādamba, swans, geese, the intoxicated Sārasas, cranes, the peacocks etc. The sweet note of the male cuckoo reverberated there. Many kinds of semidivine beings the Aśvamukhas²⁸⁵, the Siddhas, the Apsaras, the Guhyakas, etc. roamed there. Their women-folk, the Vidyādharīs, the Kinnarīs and the mountain lasses played about here and there. The celestial damsels played on their lutes, tabours and drums and danced with enthusiasm. Thus the top of the mountain abounded in beautiful women, beautiful lakes, fragrant flowers and groves of full-blown flowers.

65. In that heaven-like spot Śiva sported about with Satī for ten thousand years according to divine calculation.

66-67. Śiva went from place to place. Sometimes He went to the top of Meru wherein Gods and Goddesses resided. He went to different continents, parks and forests on the earth. After visiting the different places He returned home and lived with Satī.

68-70. Śiva found place and pleasure only with Satī. He found no pleasure in sacrifices or the Vedas or penances. Day and night Satī stared into the face of Śiva and He,

284. The Siddhas are a class of semidivine beings of great purity and holiness, said to be thousands in number.

285. The horse-faced Kinnaras and the Guhyakas are a class of demi-Gods who are attendants of Kubera and reside in the Himālayan caverns guarding his wealth. See Notes 229 and 230 P. 268.