

abode of the Devas is stationed on the summits of the Meru wherein the cities of the guardians of the quarters are also situated. They are brilliant. Beautiful celestial damsels, Rambhā, Śacī, Menakā²⁸¹ and others heighten their glory.

46. Do you wish to sport about on this great mountain which is very beautiful and which appears to contain the essence of all mountains ?

47. There, the Queen Śacī attended by her chaperons and celestial damsels will assist you always.

48. Or do you wish to have an abode in my own Kailāsa, the great mountain affording shelter to the good and enhanced in beauty by the luminous city of Kubera ?²⁸²

49-51. O beautiful lady, tell me quickly where do you wish to stay among these places, whether in Kailāsa which is pure and holy by virtue of the river Gaṅgā lustrous like the full moon or in the beautiful mountain Meru wherein the maidens of the sages recite and chant hymns in the caves and ridges or in places full of various deer and hundreds of lotus lakes. I shall make arrangements for your residence.

Brahmā said :—

52. When Śiva said thus, Satī slowly told lord Śiva revealing her desire.

Satī said :—

53. I wish to stay only on the Himālayas along with you. You please make arrangements for a residence on that mountain at once.

Brahmā said :—

54. On hearing her words, Śiva was fascinated and he went to the summit of the Himālayas along with her.

55. He reached the beautiful summit where the

²⁸². Rambhā, Śacī, Menakā etc. are the heavenly nymphs famous for their personal charms. They are skilful in winning over the minds even of the ascetics practising hard austerities.

²⁸³. Reference is to 'Alakā' also called Vasudharā, Vasusthal and Prabhā which is the capital of Kubera and the abode of Gandharvas, Guhyakas, Yakṣas etc. See Note 226 P. 265.