

left side and fed her with sweets. She too delightedly fed him with sweets in return.

31. Śiva according to the conventions of the world performed the customary rites. Taking leave of Menā and the mountain He came to the audience hall.

32. O sage, there was great jubilation then. Sounds of Vedic chants rose up. People played on the four kinds of musical instruments.

33. Coming back to His apartment, Śiva saluted the sages, Viṣṇu and me according to the worldly convention. He was duly saluted by the gods and others.

34. Shouts of "Victory" and "Obeisance" rose up along with the sound of Vedic mantras which were auspicious and which removed all obstacles.

35. Then Viṣṇu, I (Indra), gods, sages, Siddhas, secondary gods and the Nāgas eulogised Him severally.

*The gods said:—*

36. O Śiva, be victorious. O lord Śiva, the support of all, be victorious. O Rudra, O great lord, the supporter of the world, be victorious.

37. O Pārvatī's lord, O lord, accentuator of pleasure, O three-eyed one, O lord of all, the lord of illusion, be victorious, be victorious.

38. O lord, devoid of attributes, bereft of desires, O lord beyond all causes, O omnipresent, O playful support of all, O assumer of forms, Obeisance to you, be victorious.

39-40. O lord, bestower of good desires to your devotees, O merciful one, O bliss-formed, assuming forms through magic illusions, be victorious. Be victorious, O kind, O All-souled one, friend of the distressed, storehouse of mercy, O lord of illusion, free from aberrations, whose body is beyond the reach of speech and mind.

*Brahmā said:—*

41. Eulogising thus, Viṣṇu and others joyously served lord Śiva, the husband of Pārvatī duly, and with great love.

42. O Nārada, Śiva, the lord who had assumed body sportively, granted boons and honour to all present there.