

principles spoke to Satī with a smile breaking his lips asunder and consoling her.

Śiva said :—

23. “O my beloved, beautiful woman, clouds will not reach the place where I have to make an abode for you.

24. O comely lass ! even in the rainy seasons the clouds move about in the side ridges alone of the Himālayas.

25. O gentle lady, the clouds usually come only upto the foot of Kailāsa. They never go above it.

26. The clouds never go above the mountain Sumeru. The clouds Puṣkara, Āvartaka etc. reach the foot of Jambu (and return).

27. Of these mountains I have mentioned you can choose one for residence as you desire. Please tell me quickly where you wish to reside.

28. On the Himālayan mountains, songs exciting your curiosity and enthusiastic gaiety shall be sung by clusters and swarms of bees with sweet humming sounds as they play about as they please.

29. On that mountain at the time when you wish to sport about, the Siddha women will gaily offer you a seat on the jewel-studded platform and gladly present you with fruits and other gifts.

30. The daughters of the king of serpents, the mountain damsels, the Nāga ladies and the Turaṅga-Mukhīs will assist you in their excited flutter in congratulating you.

31. Seeing your face of unequalled splendour and beauty and your body of uncommon lustre, the celestial ladies there, despising their own beauty and lacking in interest in their own qualities will begin to stare at you with winkless eyes.

32. Menakā,²⁷⁹ the wife of the king of mountains famous in the three worlds for her beauty and good qualities will delight you very much through words of entreaties.

33. The honourable ladies of Himālaya's harem will

²⁷⁹. Menakā or Menā. She is the wife of Himavat and mother of Pārvatī and Gaṅgā and of a son named Maināka.