

23. O Satī, fascinate Him lest He should cast His glance on another lady. Excepting you none will be able to capture His mind.

24. Hence, you alone should fascinate Śiva through your beauty. O Śivā, being born as Dakṣa's daughter you should become Rudra's wife.

25. Just as assuming the physical form of Lakṣmī you delight Viṣṇu, so act similarly to Rudra for the benefit of the universe.

26. The bull-emblemated deity rebuked me merely for my feelings of love for a woman. How can He take a wife unto Himself, O Goddess, on His own accord ?

27. Śiva is the cause of this universe in the beginning, middle and end. If He remains detached and refuses to take a wife, how can auspicious creation come into being ?

28. This thought has tormented me. It was not conducive to any benefit to seek another shelter. So I request you for the benefit of the universe to accomplish the undertaking.

29. O mother of the universe, Viṣṇu is not competent to enthrall Him, nor Lakṣmī, nor Kāma, nor I; in fact no one other than you.

30. Hence be born as Dakṣa's daughter, the great Goddess of celestial beauty. Inspired by my devotion, be pleased to become His wife and fascinate the lord who at present is detached from the world.

31. O Goddess of devas, Dakṣa is performing a penance on the north of the milky ocean\* with his mind controlled and directed towards you. He is steady in performing the rite.

32. On hearing my words Śivā began to reflect then. The mother of the universe, surprised in her mind, spoke these words.

*The Goddess said:—*

33. O this is an extremely wonderful thing. He is the reciter of the Vedas and the creator of the universe. He is endowed with great knowledge. Yet what is this that He says ?

34. A great delusion has beset His mind that makes