

constituted the powerful set of attendants of quick speed left for different places.

12. When they went away and He was left alone with Sati, Śiva rejoiced much and sported with her.

13. Sometimes He gathered some sylvan flowers and wreathed a fine garland out of them which he put round her neck in the place of the necklace.

14. While Sati was admiring at the reflection of her face in the mirror, Śiva came behind and peeped into the reflection of His own face.

15. Sometimes He would be sporting with her ear-rings, tying and untying and scrubbing them Himself.

16. Sometimes by the application of red dye Śiva made her naturally red feet completely red.

17. Many things which could be said aloud even in the presence of many, Śiva whispered into her ears in order to see her face.

18. He would not go far from her, (if at all he went) he would return suddenly and close her eyes from behind and while she was thinking about something else he would ask her his name.

19. Sometimes Śiva would become invisible through His Māyā and suddenly embrace her when she would become terrified and agitated.

20. Sometimes with musk He would make marks like bees on her breasts that resembled the buds of a golden lotus.

21. Sometimes he would take the necklace off her breasts and press them with his hands.

22. Sometimes he would remove the bracelets, bangles, rings from their places and fix them again one by one.

23. Even as she was looking on, sometimes he would come to her lofty breasts saying with laughter, this dark spot "Kālikā" on your breasts is your companion of the same colour as it contains the same letters as are found in your name "Kālikā".²⁷⁵

24. Sometimes when he was too much excited with love he would exchange pleasantries with his beloved.

²⁷⁵. The text of the second half of the verse is corrupt; hence the translation of that portion is conjectural.