

*Nandīśvara said :—*

38. O Viṣṇu, O Brahmā, O Indra, O gods and O sages, pay heed to my words gratifying to Śiva.

39. If you persist still in your wish that Śiva shall marry, you shall eulogise with respect and piteous request.

40. O gods, great lord cannot be made subservient by ordinary devotion. The supreme lord does even what shall not be done when moved by extraordinary devotion.

41. O Brahmā, Viṣṇu and other gods, then act accordingly, otherwise go the way you have come. Tarry not.

*Brahmā said :—*

42. O sage, on hearing his words, Viṣṇu and other gods, considering that it must be so, eulogised Śiva with pleasure.

43. O great lord, lord of the gods, O ocean of mercy, lift us up from the great distress. Save us who have sought refuge in you.

*Brahmā said :—*

44. Thus the gods eulogised Śiva with many piteous entreaties. They cried loudly being agitated by their devotion.

45. Viṣṇu accompanied by me spoke out many piteous words, remembering Śiva with great devotion.

46. Śiva was thus eulogised by the gods, Viṣṇu and me. He, the great lord, ceased His meditation due to His attachment for His devotees.

47. The delighted Śiva said heightening the pleasure of Viṣṇu and other gods, after glancing at them with merciful looks. Śiva is favourably disposed to His devotees.

*Śiva said :—*

48. O, Viṣṇu, O Brahmā, O Indra and other gods, why have you all collectively come here in my presence ? Tell me the truth.

*Viṣṇu said :—*

49. O great lord, you are omniscient. You are the