

36. “O son Vasiṣṭha, approach Sandhyā, my daughter of great fortitude. She is desirous of performing a penance. Initiate her duly in the procedure of that.

37. O great sage, formerly seeing you all and me as her lovers and realising her own lustful feelings she had blushed.

38. Though not expressed and though not personified, your action then is considered by her as her first death. Now she wishes to put an end to her life.

39. Among those who observe limits and conventions she wants to lay down a limitation. The chaste lady has gone to the mountain Candrabhāga for performing the penance.

40. She does not know the procedure of performing a penance. O dear, see that she realises her desire by means of your instructions.

41. O sage, abandon this form of yours. Disguise yourself and approach her to demonstrate the mode of penance.

42. You shall assume another form lest she should be embarrassed as before on seeing your natural form and features”.

43. O Nārada, Vasiṣṭha was thus ordered by me out of pity. The sage too told me “so be it” and approached Sandhyā.

44. Vasiṣṭha saw the celestial lake full of Gaṇas and resembling the Mānasa lake. He saw Sandhyā too on its bank.

45. With her seated on its bank, the lake, full of splendid lotuses, appeared like the sky in the dusk with the moon rising and the stars twinkling.

46. On seeing her there full of noble feelings, the sage eagerly looked at the lake called Brhallohita<sup>238</sup>.

47. From the ridges of that big mountain which appeared like a big fort wall, the river Candrabhāgā rose and flowed towards the Southern sea. The sage saw that too.

238. The lake Lohita lies at the foot of the mountain Lohita—Hemasrṅga or Sarvoṣadha, situated on the north of the Hemakūta (Kailāsa) range. It is the source-lake of the Lauhitya identified with the modern river Brahmaputra.