

Sahya, Meru and others highly bedecked and of great valour, come here ?

21. O Nārada, does the mountain really intend to give his daughter to Śiva or not ? What is it that is taking place in the abode of Himavat now ? Please tell us.

22. We are having doubts in our minds. Hence we, the heaven-dwellers, ask you. Please say everything, O righteous one, and dispel our suspicions.

Brahmā said :—

23. On hearing these words of Viṣṇu and other heaven-dwellers, O sage, you who had been fascinated by the magic of Tvaṣṭṛ (Viśvakarman) spoke to them.

24. Going to an isolated place, O sage, you spoke these words to me, to Viṣṇu and also to Indra who is the lord of gods and a former enemy of the mountains, having cut off their wings.¹⁰⁰

Nārada said :—

25. The distorted portayal of heaven-dwellers is something enchanting. He desires to delude the gods in a loving but cunning manner.

26. O lord of Śacī, have you forgotten everything ? Formerly you had deluded him. Hence he wishes to surpass you here in the abode of the mountain of noble heart.

27. I have been fascinated by my shining portrait. Viṣṇu, Brahmā and Indra have been realistically portrayed by him.

28. O lord of gods, why should I talk too much ? He has made artificial prototypes of all the gods. No one, not a single detail, has been left out.

29. It is for the purpose of particularly enchanting the gods that this spell has been employed by him through this caricature.

Brahmā said :—

30. On hearing your words lord Indra who was frigh-

100. Indra is said to have clipped the wings of the mountains when they grew troublesome.