

42. You, Viṣṇu and I are the parts exceedingly of Brahman. So we are exceedingly fortunate. It is but proper to think about Him.

43. It is this worry that kept me unmarried, O lotus-seated (Brahmā). Hence, get me a wife who will follow my activities ever.

44. There is another condition to which please also listen, O Brahmā. If she evinces a disbelief in me or in what I say, I shall abandon her.

*Brahmā said :—*

45. On hearing these words of Śiva in the presence of Viṣṇu, smilingly and joyously I spoke thus in humble spirits.

46. O lord Śiva, I shall suggest such a woman as you desire for yourself,

47. She is Umā, O lord. Formerly she manifested herself in the forms of Sarasvatī and Lakṣmī in order to fulfil her task.

48. Lakṣmī became the wife of Viṣṇu and Sarasvatī mine. From her desire for the welfare of the world she has taken a third form.

49. She is born now as Dakṣa's daughter in the name of Satī. O lord, she will be an ideal wife rendering wholesome service.

50. O lord of devas, at present she is performing penance for securing you. She is firm in her austere rites. She desires you as her husband. Indeed she is highly brilliant.

51. O Lord Śiva, be merciful to her. Grant her the desired boon. Then lovingly marry her.

52. O Śiva, this is the desire of Viṣṇu, the devas and mine too. With a benignant look fulfil our desire. Let us see the wedding festivities with devotion.

53. Let there be a happy and auspicious occasion (for that) in the three worlds. Let all ailments vanish. Let there be no doubt about it.

54. Then at the conclusion of my speech, Viṣṇu, the