

persuade the mountain. Except Pināka-bearing deity, Pārvatī will not marry any other person.

18. Or, O gods, all of you go to Brahmā's region taking Indra with you. Tell Brahmā all your details. He will get your work done immediately.

*Brahmā said :—*

19. On hearing it and consulting among themselves the gods came to my Assembly. After duly bowing to me they informed me about the details.

20. On hearing the words of the gods about censuring Śiva, O sage, I the reciter of the Vedas spoke to them in an aggrieved tone.

21. "Dear children, I am incompetent to decry Śiva. It is unbearable. It destroys all riches. It is the seed of all adversities.

22. O gods, all of you go to Kailāsa and propitiate Śiva. Make Him go to Himavat's abode quickly.

23. Let him approach the lord of mountains and make disparaging remarks about Himself. Rebuking others is conducive to destruction. Rebuking oneself is conducive to fame".

24. On hearing my words, all the gods, joyously bowed to me and went to Kailāsa, the chief of mountains.

25. Going there and seeing Śiva they bowed to Him with bent heads and palms joined in reverence. The gods eulogised Śiva.

*The gods said :—*

26. O great lord, lord of gods, O Śiva, the merciful, we seek refuge in you. Be sympathetic. Obeisance be to you.

27. O lord, you are favourably disposed to your devotees, always carrying out their tasks. You are the uplifter of the distressed, and an ocean of mercy. You save us from all our miseries and distresses.

*Brahmā said :—*

28. Eulogising lord Śiva thus, Indra and other gods respectfully submitted all the details.