

41. The holy centre of a son consists of the lotus-like feet of his parents. The other holy centres can be reached only after going a long distance.

42. This holy centre is near at hand, easily accessible and a means of virtue. For a son and wife, the auspicious holy centre is in the house itself."

43. These things are mentioned frequently in the Śāstras and the Vedas. Now, are they going to be falsified by you?

44. If so, your very forms will come false. Even the Vedas will become false. There is no doubt about it.

45. Let my auspicious marriage be celebrated and that too very quickly. Otherwise let the Vedas and Śāstras be declared false.

46. Of the two alternatives whatever is excellent shall be followed, O parents, embodied virtues!

Brahmā said:—

47. Saying thus, Gāṇeśa of excellent intellect, of great wisdom and foremost among intelligent persons assumed silence.

48. On hearing his words, Pārvatī and Śiva, the rulers of the universe, were very much surprised.

49. Then, Śiva and Pārvatī praised their son who was clever and intelligent and spoke to him who had spoken the truth.

Śiva and Pārvatī said :—

50. O son, you are a supreme soul and your thoughts are pure. What you have said is true and not otherwise.

51. When misfortune comes, if a person is keenly intelligent, his misfortunes perish even as darkness perishes when the sun rises.

52. He who has intelligence possesses strength as well. How can he who is devoid of intellect have strength? The proud lion was drowned in a well with a trick by a little hare.¹⁶⁹

53. Whatever has been mentioned in the Vedas, Śāstras and Purāṇas for a boy, all that has been performed by you, namely, the observance of virtue.

¹⁶⁹. This verse introduces the story of the lion and the hare in the Pañcatantra.