

Brahmā said :—

23. On hearing the words of the sages, Himavat laughed but he was a little frightened. He spoke with humility.

Himavat said:—

24. I do not see any royal paraphernalia with Śiva, He has none to support him, He has no assets. He has no kinsman.

25. I do not wish to give my daughter to a Yogin who is extremely detached. O ye sons of the Creator of the Vedas tell me decisively.

26. If a father were to give his daughter in marriage to an unsuitable person, out of love, delusion, fear or covetousness, he is doomed. He will go to hell.

27. Out of my own free will, I will not give her to the trident-bearing Śiva. O sages, whatever arrangement is befitting here, may kindly be carried out.

Brahmā said:—

28. O excellent sages, on hearing these words of the mountain Himavat, Vasiṣṭha⁵⁶, the most eloquent among them replied:—

Vasiṣṭha said:—

29. O lord of mountains, listen to my words in every respect conducive to your welfare; they are not against virtue. They are true and shall bring about your joy here and hereafter.

30. Statements, in ordinary language and in the Vedas, are of three forms. A scholar knowing all lores understands them by means of his pure vision of knowledge.

31. It is only an enemy, though keen in intellect, who says what is pleasing to the ears now but what transpires to be untrue and unwholesome afterwards. He never speaks wholesome things.

56. Vasiṣṭha was one of the seven great sages and one of the ten Prajāpatīs. There are several accounts about his origin. He is declared to have been either a mind-born son of Brahmā or the son of Mitra and Varuṇa from Urvaśi.