

obstacles perform your great penance. O lord, I am your slave always. I shall do all service to you.

Brahmā said :—

38. After saying this, the lord of the mountains returned at once to his abode and enthusiastically narrated everything to his beloved wife.

39. O Nārada, calling together all his attendants with the members of their families, the lord of the mountains said emphatically.

Himācala said :—

40. From now onwards, none of you shall go to the ridge of mine, called Gaṅgāvatarāṇa. This is my command. I am telling you the truth.

41. If anyone of you goes there I shall punish that rogue particularly. This is the truth I am speaking.

42. O sage, after thus checking all of his attendants, the mountain made other arrangements also. I now tell you all about the same.

CHAPTER TWELVE

(Śiva-Himavat dialogue)

Brahmā said

1. Then, the delighted lord of the mountains, took some fresh flowers and fruits with him and approached Śiva along with his daughter.

2. Approaching the lord of the three worlds, engaged in meditation and bowing to Him he mentally dedicated to Him, his wonderful daughter.

3. Placing the fruits and flowers in front of Him and making his daughter stand before Him, the lord of the mountains spoke to Śiva.

Himācala said :—

4. O lord, my daughter who is eager to serve you, the