

25-26. The brahmin, the preceptor of the king and the scholarly priest were experts in sacred lore and polity. They advised the king in that matter.

*The preceptor and the priest said :—*

27. O wise king, listen to our beneficial words. Do not be anxious. In the company of your kinsmen turn your good attention to the sacred texts.

28. O king, whether today or after a year, the princess is to be given to a deserving person, a brahmin or anyone else.

29. In the three worlds we do not see more deserving person than this brahmin. Give your daughter to this sage and save your riches.

30. O king, if all riches face the danger of destruction due to one object or person, the wise man saves everything by abandoning that object or person unless it be that who has sought refuge.

*Vasiṣṭha said:—*

31. On hearing the words of the wise, the king lamented again and again but ultimately offered his daughter fully bedecked in ornaments to the excellent sage.

32. O mountain, accepting and marrying the beautiful maiden Padmā, on a par with goddess Lakṣmī, in accordance with holy laws, the delighted sage returned to his abode.

33. After giving his daughter to an old man, the king was much dejected in mind. Abandoning everything he went to the forest for performing penance.

34. O mountain, when the king went to the forest, the queen, passed away, due to the pangs of separation from her husband and daughter.

35. Without the king, the respectable sons and officers of the king became unconscious. The other people thinking that the king was dead lamented much.

36. Anarāya went to the forest, performed great penance, and worshipped Śiva with devotion. In the end, he attained Śivaloka free from all ailments.

37. The eldest son of the king, Kīrtimān, virtuously ruled over the kingdom and tended the subjects like his own children.