

in the universe stood in front of her, stunned but delighted at her chastity. But he did not say anything.

33. Princess Padmā, the chaste beloved of Pippalāda, O mountain, was surprised on realising that it was Dharma and said.

*Padmā said :—*

34. O Dharma, you are the ever present witness of all activities. O lord, why did you deign to deceive me to know my mind ?

35. O Dharma, what has been done already does not amount to any guilt on my part. You have been cursed in vain by me but it was due to my ignorance and innate nature of woman.

36. I am now thinking as to what shall be done about it. May that idea strike me whereby I may get peace.

37. This sky, these quarters and the winds may get destroyed but the curse of a chaste lady will never be destroyed.

38. In the Satyayuga you shine with all the legs, O king of gods, on all occasions, day or night, like the moon on a full moon night.

39. If you are destroyed, the annihilation of all creations will occur. But a sense of helpless despair is unnecessary. So I shall explain.

40. In the Tretāyuga, one leg shall be defunct, O excellent god. Another leg too shall be defunct in Dvāpara and the third one in the Kali age, O lord.

41. In the latter half of Kali, all the legs will be chopped off. Again in the Satyayuga you will attain perfection.

42. In the Satyayuga you will be all-pervasive and in the other Yugas partially so. Thus in accordance with the Yugas, you will be maintaining your position.

43. Let these words of mine be true and pleasing to you. I am now going to serve my husband. O lord, you return to your abode.