

The people said :—

14. This excellent lady, the repository of all good qualities, is the daughter of Anaraṇya and is called Padmā. She is another Lakṣmī (goddess of fortune). She is being wooed by great kings.

Brahmā said :—

15. On hearing the words of the people who spoke the truth, the sage became much agitated in the mind and was eager to possess her.

16. O mountain, the sage took bath and worshipped his favourite deity Śiva duly. The lustful sage went to the council-chamber of Anaraṇya for the sake of alms.

17. Immediately after seeing the sage, the king was struck with awe and bowed to him. He offered him homage (Madhuparka)* and devoutly worshipped him.

18. Out of love, the sage accepted everything and ultimately requested for the hand of his daughter. The king kept quiet, being unable to give any decisive reply.

19. The sage repeated his request saying—"O great king, give me your daughter. Otherwise in a trice I will reduce everything to ashes".

20. The king and his attendants were overwhelmed by the splendour of the sage. Staring at the old emaciated brahmin, they began to cry.

21. The queens, knowing not what shall be done, lamented. The chief queen, the mother of the girl, fell unconscious in the excess of her grief.

22. The brothers of the girl were agitated with sorrow. O lord of mountains, everything and every one connected with the king was overwhelmed with grief.

23. In the meantime the wise brahmin, the excellent preceptor of the king, as well as his intelligent priest came there.

24. The king bowed to them and paid homage. He cried before them. He explained to them everything and asked them what was the proper step to be taken immediately.

*See Note 47 P. 600