

25. O Brahmā, O Viṣṇu, O Indra, O sages and O gods, what had been done by Kāma formerly and forgotten by you may be recollected and pondered over.

26. O gods, meditation of everyone had been spoiled by the stubborn Kāma, the great archer formerly.

27. Kāma leads to hell; lust to anger, anger to delusion and delusion destroys penance.

28. Anger and lust shall be eschewed by you, the best of gods. My words shall be heeded by you all and not otherwise.

*Brahmā said :—*

29. After saying thus, the bull-bannered lord Śiva expressed the wish that Brahmā, Viṣṇu, the gods and the sages, should speak.

30. Śiva became quiet after resorting to meditation again. Śiva, as before, was surrounded by His Gaṇas.

31-33. Śiva thought within Himself His own Soul, the form that is unsullied, free from distortions, aberrations and ailments, the form which is greater than the greatest, eternal, free from sense of possession, free from obsessions, beyond the ken of sounds and words, devoid of attributes and knowable through perfect wisdom. Thinking upon His own features thus in His meditation, the lord, the cause of great enjoyment and protection became engrossed in supreme bliss.

34. On seeing Śiva again engaged in meditation all the dwellers of heaven, Viṣṇu, Indra and others, humbly told Nandin.

*The gods said :—*

35. What shall we do now? Śiva has become detached and has gone on meditation. You are a companion of Śiva and pure assistant. You are omniscient.

36. O chief of the Gaṇas, we seek refuge in you. Please guide us. What is the remedy by which Śiva can be propitiated?

*Brahmā said :—*

37. O sage, thus urged by the gods, Viṣṇu and others, Nandin, the favourite Gaṇa of Śiva replied to the gods.