

24. Of course Kāma reaped the fruits of his sinful misdeeds, for Brahmā became angry and cursed him in the presence of Śiva.

25. I too shall have to reap the fruits of my sin. I have committed a great sin. I wish to have a means for making amends.

26. Directly perceiving that I too had lustful feelings, the brothers and my father had a similar desire. Hence I am the worst sinner.

27. I too had the unconventional lustful feelings on seeing them, towards my own father and brothers as towards a husband.

28. I shall perform expiatory rites myself for my sin. Following the Vedic injunctions I shall consign myself to the fire.

29. But I shall set up the new limits in the world. No person shall be so lustful at the time of birth.

30. For this purpose I shall perform a severe penance. Then I shall establish the new limits and afterwards I shall abandon this life.

31. No purpose will be served with this body for which love was cherished by my father and brothers.

32. This body cannot be the means for achieving merit, for, it was through this body that lustful feelings were generated in my father and brothers.

33. Thinking thus in her mind, Sandhyā went to the mountain Candrabhāga from which the river Candrabhāgā²³⁷ flows.

34-35. On coming to know that she had gone to the mountain, I, Brahmā, told my son Vasiṣṭha, the omniscient, of purified mind due to penance, who had acquired spiritual knowledge who was seated near me and who had mastered the Vedas and the Vedāṅgas.

²³⁷. Candrabhāgā, modern Cenab. It is called Asikni 'black' in the R̥gveda, Akesines by Arrian and Sandabāgā by Ptolemy. It rises from the foot of the Himālayas and flows in two rivulets : Candrā from a large snow-bed to the South-East of Bāra Lācha; Bhāgā from the north-west slope of the pass and both join at Tandi and the joint stream is known as Candrabhāgā. H. Dh. Ś. Vol. IV P. 742; Geo of the Purāṇas P. 114.