

nurtured by one cannot be cut and felled down by oneself.²⁴

23. Śiva is the most suitable agent to carry out your task. But I myself cannot do anything remedial in this case.

24. Tāraka will be destroyed by his own sin. How that shall be done you know from me. I shall advise you.

25. Thanks to the power of the boon granted by me. Tāraka cannot be killed by me or by Viṣṇu or by Śiva or by any one of the gods. It is true.

26. O gods, if there is a son born of Śiva, he alone can kill the demon Tāraka.

27. O best of gods, you carry out the remedy I am suggesting. By the grace of lord Śiva, it can be successfully accomplished.

28. Satī, the daughter of Dakṣa, formerly cast off her body. She is now born of Menakā's womb. That event is already known to you all.

29. O gods, it is certain that lord Śiva will marry her. Still you shall pursue your endeavour.

30. Make such arrangements as to ensure the discharge of semen into Pārvatī, the daughter of Menakā.

31. Śiva is a great Yogin who can make semen flow upwards in the body. Only Pārvatī can make him discharge the semen downwards, out of the body. There is no other woman capable of it.

32. That daughter of the lord of the mountains is now in her prime of youth. She is serving Śiva in his penance on the Himālayas.

33. As a result of the tenacious pleadings of her father, she is serving Him in meditation.

34. She is the most beautiful lady in the three worlds. She stands in front of Him and worships Him. Still lord Śiva who is engrossed in His meditation is not distracted by her presence.

35. It is your duty to ascertain means to make Him desire Pārvatī for His wife. O gods, do something in that direction very quickly.

36. I shall go to the demon's abode and try to dissuade him from his obstinacy. O gods, you can go to your abode

²⁴. For the similarity of idea and verbal expression, cp. Kālidāsa's Kumāra.