

Śoṣaṇa (withering) and Māraṇa (killing). Even sages could be deluded and tormented by them.

13-15. (Kāma thought like this :—) I shall make a beginning of my career as assigned by Brahmā himself as my eternal task, here itself in the presence of the sages and Brahmā. All the sages and Brahmā are present here. They shall witness my resolution and performance. Sandhyā who was referred to by Brahmā is also present here. She shall be my mouth-piece. I shall test my power here and then only carry on my work elsewhere.

16. After thinking like this and deciding on his further activity, Kāma fitted his flower-arrows.

17. Kāma, the foremost of archers, stood steady in the posture of Ālīḍha (the posture for shooting, the right knee advanced and the left leg retracted), bent his bow almost into a circle and was ready to shoot.

18. O excellent sage, when the bow was kept ready by him, fragrant winds delighting everyone blew there.

19. The enchanter then charmed Brahmā and others, the mental sons with several sharp flower-arrows.

20. O sage, the sages and I were thus enamoured and we felt very great change in our mental feelings.

21. We began to stare at Sandhyā frequently, passion depraving our minds. Our lust was heightened. Truly a woman is one who increases passionate feelings.

22. Making all of us thoroughly enchanted thus, he did not stop till all of us lost control over our sense-organs.

23. When on seeing her, my vital elements became displaced, forty-nine animal instincts Bhāvas came, out of my body.

24. She too began to manifest the instinctive gestures of side-glances, pretences of concealing feelings etc. as a result of being hit by Kāma's arrows when she was being stared at by them.

25. Profusely exhibiting these emotions, the naturally beautiful Sandhyā shone brilliantly like the celestial river producing gentle ripples.

26. O sage, on seeing her emotionally excited I loved her all the more despite the fact that I was the creator and my body was, filled with Dhārmic features.