

64-65. I, Brahmā, then said :— “After playing this same trick on Śiva, Kāma will be consumed in the fire of Śiva’s eye and freed of his arrogance.” O excellent brahmin, it was in the presence of the manes and the sages of perfect control that I spoke to Kāma in this way.

66. On hearing this curse of terrible nature, Rati’s husband was frightened. He abandoned his arrows and became visible.

67. O sage, he spoke to me (i.e. Brahmā) and my sons Dakṣa and others even as the Piṭṛs and Sandhyā stood there listening. By this time his arrogance had disappeared.

68. Kāma said :—“O Brahmā, why have I been so terribly cursed by you ? O lord of worlds, I have not committed any sin against you who are reputed to follow justifiable path.

69. O Brahmā, you have assigned me my task. I have only carried it out. Hence this curse is not proper. I have not done anything else.

70. You had said :—“All of us, I, Viṣṇu and Śiva are targets of your arrows.” I only tested your statement.

71. I am not guilty in this respect. O Brahmā I being innocent, this conditional curse, O lord of universe, is very terrible.

72. On hearing his words, I, Brahmā, the lord of the universe, replied to Madana who had controlled himself, trying to suppress him further.

*Brahmā said :—*

73. I cursed you because you have aimed at us—this Sandhyā who is my daughter and me her father.

74. But now I am free from anger. In this state I tell you O Kāma, do not be under any suspicion. Listen. Cast off your fear. Be happy.

75. O Kāma, he will reduce you to ashes in the fire of his eye. But he will give you another similar body afterwards.

76. When Śiva takes to a wife He Himself will get you another body.

77. After speaking thus to Kāma, I the grandfather