

Sanatkumāra said :—

25-26. Bāṇa son of Bali, deluded by Śiva's deception, did not request anything else from lord Śiva who would have bestowed even salvation if asked though he is hard to please. Śiva, who is favourably disposed to his devotees, granted boons to him and stayed there lovingly along with his sons and his Gaṇas.

27. Once Śiva performed divine sports in Śoṇita, the beautiful city of Bāṇa, in the company of the gods and Asuras, on the banks of a river.

28. The Gandharvas and the celestial damsels danced and laughed. The sages performed Japas, bowed to, worshipped and eulogised him.

29. The Pramathas jumped and shouted; the sages performed sacrifices. The groups of Siddhas came and saw the divine sport of Śiva.

30. Mlecchas,³¹⁹ adversaries and evil-intentioned wranglers perished. The mothers³²⁰ (Brāhmī etc.) sat facing him. The terrifying imps perished.

31. The worldly faults of those who had the good conception of devotion to Śiva were forgotten.

32. The sages and the Siddhas leapt and bounced on seeing the activities of the women. The seasons displayed their power and nourished it.

33. Gentle winds blew wafting the grey pollen dust. The flocks of birds eager after honey chirped on the trees.

34. The cuckoo cooed sweetly in the forests and parks, generating love, on the branches heavily laden with flowers.

35. Then being glanced at by Kāma who was not vanquished, the crescent-crested lord Śiva highly indulgent in sports spoke to Nandin.

³¹⁹. Mlecchas were wild ferocious tribes whose acts of violence caused vast devastations and destructions, struck terror in the social life of the country. They are said to have been repulsed and destroyed by lord Śiva.

³²⁰. Mātṛs are the divine mothers or personified energies of the principal deities reckoned variously as seven, eight, nine or sixteen in numbers. They are closely connected with the worship of Śiva and are described as attending on his son kārttikeya to whom at first only seven Mātṛs were assigned.