

Kāma along with his mistress Rati and his comrade spring delighted a little.

48. The groups of beings too, after hearing this surrounded me and Kāma and stood in their own shape.

49. Then I, Brahmā, spoke to Kāma lovingly —“Do my bidding. Let these beings accompany you. You shall go again to enthrall Śiva.

50. With full attention you put forth further efforts so that Śiva may suffer delusion and take a wife unto Himself.

51. O celestial sage, on hearing these words, Kāma humbly paid homage to me and considering the gravity of the matter spoke to me again.

*Kāma said :—*

52. I have already made sufficient efforts in this matter of enchanting Him. The delusion could not be effected. Nor it is going to take place now. Nor will it ever take place.

53. Acting on your directive after giving it the due honour and after visiting my troops I shall go again with all pomp and show.

54. But I am certain that He will not be deluded. O Brahmā I have fears that He may reduce me to ashes.

55. O great sage, after saying thus Kāma, accompanied by Vasanta and Rati started with his troops to the abode of Śiva, despite the fear lurking in his mind.

56. Kāma employed all his wiles as before. Vasanta too employed various means racking his brain in diverse ways.

57. He used many tactics. His troops too tried their best. But Śiva, the Great Soul, was not afflicted the least.

58. Kāma then returned to my abode. I had great pride in his troops but now distress and discomfit stood facing me.

59. O dear, bowing to me with despair and dejection while standing before me without pride and arrogance, along with his troops and Vasanta, Kāma spoke to me in these words.

60. O Brahmā, more efforts were put by us to enthrall Him, but they all went in vain as He was absorbed in deep meditation.

61. There my body was not reduced to ashes because