

I could see the face. Afflicted much by the cupid, I pitched upon the production of airful smoke as the means thereof.

23-24. I put many wet twigs into the fire. Only very little ghee did I pour into the fire. Much smoke arose out of the fire from the wet twigs, so much so that darkness enveloped the whole altar ground (and the neighbourhood).

25. Then lord Śiva, the supreme God, indulged in many sports, covered his eyes (apparently) afflicted by smoke.

26. Then, O sage, afflicted by the cupid and delighted in the heart of hearts, I lifted her veil and stared into the face of Satī.

27. I looked at the face of Satī many a time. I was helpless in curbing the onset of a sensuous organism.

28. Four drops of my semen virile got displaced and fell on the ground like drops of dew as a result of staring into her face.

29. O sage, then I was stunned into silence. I was surprised. I became suspicious. I covered up the semen drops lest anyone should see them.

30. But the lord Śiva saw it by His divine vision. The trickling down of the semen excited His fury and He said—

*Śiva said :—*

31. “O sinful wretch, what a despicable mess you have perpetrated? At the time of her marriage you have passionately gazed at the face of my beloved.

32. You think that this blunder has not been known by me at all. There is nothing that is unknown to me in the three worlds. O Brahman, how can it then remain hidden?

33. O foolish fellow, just as the oil is latent in the gingelly seed so also I am present within everything in the three worlds whether mobile or immobile.”

*Brahmā said :—*

34. Saying thus, and remembering the words of Viṣṇu, Śiva who dearly loved Viṣṇu lifted His trident and wished to kill me.

35. O excellent brahmin, when the trident was lifted