

astray. Others are of no consideration. I shall make even Śiva fall.

23. I have only five arrows that are soft and flowery. My bow is of three types. That too is flowery. The bow-string consists of bees.

24. My support and strength is my beloved wife Ratī. Spring is my minister. O god, I am having five forces. The moon, the storehouse of nectar, is my friend.

25. The sentiment of love is my commander-in-chief. The coquettish gestures and emotions are my soldiers. All these are soft and gentle. O Indra, I too am of that sort.

26. An intelligent man shall put together things that are mutually complementary. You shall therefore engage me in a task that accords with my capacity.

*Brahmā said :—*

27. On hearing his words, Indra was much pleased. Pleasing Kāma, the bestower of cherished happiness, by means of his words, he spoke.

*Indra said :—*

28. O dear Kāma, you are competent to carry out the task which I have conceived in my mind. It cannot be realised through anyone else.

29. O Kāma, foremost among my friends, listen. I shall explain truly for what I remembered you and desired your presence, O Kāma.

30. Securing a wonderful boon from Brahmā, the great demon Tāraka has become invincible and a pest for everyone.

31. The entire world is harassed by him. Many virtuous rites are destroyed. The gods have become miserable and so also the sages.

32. He had been fought by the gods to the utmost of their ability formerly. But the weapons of all the gods became quite futile.

33. The noose of Varuṇa, the god of waters, snapped. When hurled at his neck by Viṣṇu, the discus Sudarśana was blunted.

34. The death of this wicked demon has been foretold