

the gods mentioned the matter of great importance of the gods as mentioned by me (before).

*Viṣṇu said :—*

13. “O Śiva, all the gods have come here to submit to you their misery perpetrated mysteriously by Tāraka.

14-15. O Śiva, the demon Tāraka will be killed only by your self-begotten son and not otherwise. Ponder over what I have said and take pity on me. Obeisance, O great lord, to you. O lord, redeem the gods from the misery brought about by Tāraka.

16. Hence, O lord Śiva, Pārvatī shall be accepted by you and grasped with your right hand. Accept her hand as offered in marriage by the lord of mountains. She is full of noble attributes.

17. On hearing those words of Viṣṇu, Śiva was pleased and said indicating to them the goal of the good, eager in Yogic feats as He was.

*Śiva said :—*

18-19. “If goddess Pārvatī, the most beautiful lady were to be accepted by me, she will be able to resuscitate Kāma on account of the marriage. Then all the gods, sages and ascetics will become lusty and incompetent in the great path of Yoga.

20. Kāma was burnt by me for the achievement of universal goal. It was at the suggestion of Brahmā, O Viṣṇu. No anxiety need be felt in this connection.

21. O lord of gods, O intelligent one, it is your duty not to be obdurate after considering the situation of what shall be done and what not.

22. O Viṣṇu, a great favour to the gods has been done by me when Kāma was burnt. May ye all stay free from lust certainly along with me.

23. Just as I, so also you, O gods, can without effort perform difficult tasks being endowed with the energy of great penance.

24. Kāma not being with you, you can be endowed with the supreme bliss and be free from aberrations by means of spiritual contemplation, O Gods.