

3. On knowing that Nārada of divine vision was wandering over the Earth, the two attendants of Śiva approached him who by that time had become pure in mind.

4. They bowed to him and touched his feet. With a desire to secure release from the curse they spoke to him respectfully.

*The attendants of Śiva said :—*

5. O celestial sage, son of Brahmā, please hear our words. We who formerly offended you are really not brahmins.

6-7. O brahminical sage, we, your former offenders, are the attendants of Śiva. Induced by Śiva you had cursed us when your mind was deluded by the illusory infatuation for the princess at the Svayaṁvara. Realising that the occasion was inopportune we kept quiet then.

8. We reaped the fruit of our own action. No one is to be blamed for it. O lord, be pleased. Bless us now.

*Sūta said :—*

9. On hearing the words of the attendants uttered with devotion and respect, the sage replied lovingly, repenting (for his previous fury).

*Nārada said :—*

10. O attendants of Lord Śiva, most worthy of the respect of good people, please listen to my words now free from delusion. They are true and shall make you happy.

11. Formerly my mind had been depraved. Certainly it was Śiva's will. In that state of delusion and crookedness of the mind I had unfortunately cursed both of you.

12. What I have said is bound to happen. Still, O Gaṇas (attendants) listen. I shall tell you the way of redemption from the curse. Please forgive my sin now.

13-14. You will be born as demons from the semen virile of a great sage and due to his power you will secure the commanding position of the king of demons endowed with prosperity, strength and valorous exploits. You will rule over whole of the universe as devotees of Śiva with your sense