

16. Viṣṇu is born of his left limb. I am born of the right limb. You are born of the heart of Śiva and are his full-fledged incarnation.

17. Thus, O lord, we have become three, with different forms. We are the sons of Śivā and Śiva which, O eternal one, you must note.

18. Viṣṇu and I have become united with our wives for the performance of our function. O lord, with great pleasure we carry on our activities in the world at your bidding.

19. Hence, for the benefit of the universe, for the happiness of the devas, you must accept an auspicious lady as your wife.

20. O great lord, please listen to another incident of bygone days, just recollected by me. You yourself as Śiva mentioned this to us formerly.

21. "O Brahmā, this my great form, exactly as this, will be manifested through your limb. He will be known as Rudra in the world.

22. Brahmā is the cause of creation, Viṣṇu is sustainer. I shall be the cause of dissolution in the form of Rudra, a Saguṇa form.

23. I shall marry a woman and perform the excellent function." These are your words. Remembering these words please fulfil your promise.

24. O lord, this is your own directive that I be the creator and Viṣṇu the protector. Śiva Himself has manifested in your form as the cause of dissolution.

25. We two are unable to perform our duties without you. Hence take up a beloved consort who too will be engaged in the activities of creation.

26. O Śiva, accept a beloved wife as a life companion in the same manner as Viṣṇu has taken the Goddess of the lotus (Lakṣmī) and I have taken the goddess of speech.

27. On hearing these words of mine—of Brahmā—in the presence of Viṣṇu, Śiva, the lord of worlds spoke to me with his face beaming with a smile.