

coming to know that a rich brahmin had become her willing slave. The brahmin's heart was filled with love due to her pleasant talk.

21. He decided to make her his wife and she consented to have him as her husband. Thus in mutual love they sported for a long time.

22. Sitting, lying, eating, drinking and playing together they were not at all different from any other wedded couple.

23. Dissuaded again and again by his mother, father, first wife and others though he was, he never paid heed to their words but continued his sinful activities.

24. Once he became so enraged as to kill his mother, father and wedded wife at dead of night while they were asleep and took possession of their wealth.

25. Enamoured of the courtesan he handed over to her his own wealth and also the wealth that he looted from his father, mother and first wife.

26. In the company of this harlot he used to eat all sorts of forbidden food, became an addict to wine and spirituous liquors and partook of his food from the same plate as his concubine.

27. Once, by chance, he came to the city of Pratiṣṭhāna.¹³ He saw a Śiva temple where saintly men had congregated.

28. During his stay there, he was afflicted by an acute fever. He heard the discourse on Śiva conducted by a brahmin.

29. The brahmin Devarāja suffering from fever died at the end of a month. He was bound with nooses by Yama's attendants and forcibly taken to Yama's city.

30—33. In the mean while Śiva's attendants dressed in white, smeared with ashes all over the body, wearing garlands of Rudrākṣa and wielding tridents in their hands started furiously from Sivaloka and reached Yama's city. They threatened the attendants of Yama (the God of death) and thrashed them. Releasing Devarāja from their clutches they seated him in a wonderful aerial chariot. When they were

13. Pratiṣṭhāna : There are references to two towns of the same name : (1) a town at the confluence of the Ganges and Yamunā and capital of the early kings of the lunar race, (2) a town on the Godāvari and capital of Śālivahana. The latter town can be identified with the modern Paithan in the Aurangabad district. It was known as Paiṭhinasiṇipuri : *SA* 11. vii. 14. 34, 37.