

20. "O Gods, after some time Kāma will come to life again. But none of his tricks will succeed here.

21. Whatever space all round this spot is visible to persons here, will be out of the influence of Kāma for ever, O Devas.

22. It was due to this statement of Śiva that Kāma's viles did not prevail upon Nārada. From Śiva's abode he went to Indra.

23. Kāma then narrated everything about the sage and commended his power. At Indra's bidding Kāma returned to his own place.

24. Deluded by Śiva's Māyā (power of illusion) Indra was unaware of the true facts and was greatly surprised and he admired Nārada.

25. Śiva's Māyā is incomprehensible to all. The whole universe is deluded by it. Only the true devotees of dedicated souls escape.

26. Backed by Śiva's blessings Nārada stayed in the hermitage for a long time. Then realising that his penance was complete, the sage concluded the same.

27. Thinking that he had conquered Kāma he was puffed with pride. He was devoid of true knowledge and deluded by Śiva's Māyā.

28. O great sages, blessed and very blessed is Śiva's Māyā. Even Viṣṇu, Brahmā and others do not know the turn it takes.

29. In that state of delusion and puffed up arrogance, the great sage Nārada went to Kailāsa to expatiate on his own achievement.

30. Bowing down to Rudra, the sage arrogantly spoke of his exploits with the conviction that he was equal to the noble-souled lord, the conqueror of Kāma, i.e., Śiva.

31. On hearing it, Śiva who is favourably disposed to His devotees, advised Nārada who was ignorant of the real cause, whose mind had strayed and who had been deluded by His (Śiva's) Māyā.

*Rudra said :—*

32. "Dear Nārada, O wise sage, you are blessed. But