

*Śiva said :—*

28. O Brahmā, O Viṣṇu, both of you are always dear to me. On seeing you both, my delight is enhanced indeed.

29. You two are the best among the devas. You are the masters of three worlds. What you say is indeed weighty since you two are engaged in Śiva's work.

30. O best of Devas, it is not proper for me to marry as I am detached from the world and engaged in penance. I always practise Yoga.

31-32. Of what avail is a beloved to me in this world since I am in the path of abstinence delighting myself in my own soul, freed of attachment, unsullied, with the body of an ascetic, possessed of knowledge, seeing himself, free from aberrations and a non-reveller. Besides I am always unclean and inauspicious. Hence say now what can I do with a loving wife ?

33-34. Even as I am engaged in Yoga, I experience the mystic Bliss. Only a man devoid of perfect knowledge will make much of marriage and desire it. Actually it is a great bondage. Hence I am not interested in it. This is truth. I am telling you the truth.

35. None of my activities is pursued with self-interest. Yet I shall carry out what you have suggested for the benefit of the universe.

36. Considering your weighty words for the fulfilment of my promise and the goal of my task, I shall marry. I am always subservient to my devotees.

37. O Viṣṇu, O Brahmā, you must hear what sort of a wife I will be taking in accordance with that promise. What I say is indeed proper.

38. Suggest a woman of comely features and Yogic practice who will be able to receive my semen virile in parts.

39. She must be a Yoginī when I practise Yoga and a loving woman when I indulge in love.

40-41. Sometimes I will be thinking about Śiva, my own form of splendour, the eternal principle which the scholars well versed in the Vedas call Imperishable. When I go in trance, O Brahmā, in that meditation, damned be she who causes an impediment therein.