

enthusiastic success. You dabble in illusory tactics and your intentions are always dirty.

7. Formerly you assumed the form of an enchantress¹⁸⁰ and showed your deceptive power. You made the demons drink liquor and not the nectar.

8. If out of pity Śiva had not drunk poison¹⁸¹, O Viṣṇu, all your illusory tactics would have been quelled since you take pleasure only in deception.

9. O Viṣṇu, a deceptive path is extremely attractive to you. You had never been of saintly nature, but the lord made you free from control.

10-11. What is done by Śiva the supreme Ātman does not seem proper. Thinking of your influence and strength when you act independently and seeing the way you go He has now repented. He has announced that a brahmin is superior to all, thereby making the Vedas pronounced by Him authoritative.

12. O Viṣṇu, knowing that, I shall now teach you through that power so that hereafter you will never do such things.

13. You are fearless because till now you have not come into clash with an equally powerful person. Now you will derive, O Viṣṇu, the fruit of your own "deeds".

14. After saying this, the sage still under the influence of Māyā furiously cursed Viṣṇu, thereby exhibiting the superiority of his brahminical power.

15-16. O Viṣṇu, the enchanter that you are, you made me distressed for the sake of woman. O Hari, you shall experience misery in that human form which you imitated while proceeding with your deceptive tactics. Your allies will be those whose face you assigned to me.

17. O inflictor of miseries upon others, you shall get the misery of separation from a woman. You shall have the travails of a human being deluded by ignorance."

18. Thus Nārada, deluded himself by ignorance, cursed

¹⁸⁰. It refers to the form assumed by Viṣṇu at the time of cheating the demons of nectar.

¹⁸¹. It refers to Śiva's swallowing the poison produced at the churning of the ocean.