

in which it was said that the servants of Yama would introduce a red hot iron into the vaginal passage of women who indulge in sexual intercourse with their paramours. This narrative made by the Paurāṇika to increase detachment, made the woman tremble with fear.

41. At the end of the discourse when all the people dispersed, the terrified woman approached the scholarly brahmin and spoke to him in confidence.

*Cañculā said :—*

42. O noble sir, please listen to the ignoble activities which I performed without knowing my real duties. O lord, on hearing the same you will please take pity on me and lift me up.

43. O lord, with a mind utterly deluded I have committed very great sin. Blinded by lust I spent the whole of my youth in incontinent prostitution.

44. Today on hearing your learned discourse abounding in the sentiments of non-attachment I have become extremely terrified and I tremble much.

45. Fie upon me, the foolish sinner of a woman deluded by lust, censurable, clinging to worldly pleasures and averse to my own duties.

46. Unknowingly a great sin that produces excessive distress has been committed by me for a fleeting glimpse of an evanescent pleasure, a criminal action.

47. Alas, I do not know which terrible goal this will lead me to. My mind has always been turned to evil ways. Which wise man will come to my succour there ?

48. At the time of death how shall I face the terrible messengers of Yama ? How shall I feel when they tie nooses forcibly round my neck ?

49. How shall I endure in Hell the mincing of my body to pieces ? How shall I endure the special torture that is excessively painful ?

50. I bewail my lot. How can I peacefully proceed with the activity of my sense-organs during the day ? Agitated with misery how shall I get peaceful sleep during the night ?

51. Alas ! I am undone ! I am burnt down ! My