

Viṣṇu said :—

19. O Brahmā, how is it that such an idea entered into your mind? Considering everything sensibly tell me the truth.

Brahmā said :—

20. Dear lord, hear the story. Your magic is very fascinating. The world is attracted by it. Happiness and misery are based on the same.

21. Induced by that I resolved on committing the sin. Please listen. At your bidding I shall narrate it in detail.

22. At the beginning of the creation ten sons were born to me together with a very beautiful daughter originating from my speech.²⁵⁰

23. Dharma originated from the heart and Kāma from the various parts of my body. O Viṣṇu, on seeing my daughter I was highly fascinated.

24. I looked at her with a distorted vision since I had been deluded by your Māyā. Immediately Śiva came there and reproached me and my sons too.

25. He rebuked us considering Himself the sole lord, possessed of supreme knowledge and adept in Yogic practices and an enjoyer with full control over all sense-organs.

26. O Viṣṇu, my sorrow is that even after manifesting Himself as my son He reproached me face to face. I have mentioned it to you now.

27. If He were to take a wife unto Himself I shall become happy and forget all my miseries. O Keśava, it is for this purpose that I have sought refuge in you.

28. On hearing these words of mine, Viṣṇu laughed and spoke immediately delighting me, the cause of entire creation.

Viṣṇu said :—

29. O Brahmā listen to my words in full. It will eradicate your frustration. It will be consistent with what is said in the Vedas and Āgamas and what is in conformity with reality.

²⁵⁰. In regard to the number of Brahmā's sons the Purāṇas differ considerably. See Note 242.