

bow fully drawn and ready to discharge the arrow. Kāma was haughty and so was very senseless.

8. O Nārada, on seeing Kāma in that attitude, instantaneously anger was aroused in lord Śiva, the supreme soul.

9. O sage, standing high up in the air, holding the arrow and the bow, Kāma discharged his arrow, usually unerring on Śiva.

10. The infallible weapon became futile on the great lord. The furious weapon calmed down in regard to the great soul, Śiva.

11. Kāma was frightened when his weapon failed. Standing there and seeing lord Śiva, the conqueror of death in front, he trembled.

12. O great sage, when his endeavour became futile, Kāma who was frightened much remembered Indra and all other gods.

13. O great sage, remembered by Kāma, Indra and other gods came there, bowed to and eulogised Śiva.

14. When the gods eulogised thus, a great flame of fire sprang up from the third eye of the infuriated Śiva.

15. That fire originating instantaneously from the eye in the middle of His forehead blazed with flames shooting up and resembling the fire of final dissolution in refulgence.

16. After shooting up in the sky, it fell on the ground and rolled over the earth all round.

17. Even before the gods had the time to say "Let him be forgiven, let him be excused" it reduced Kāma to ashes.

18. When the heroic Kāma was thus slain, the gods became miserable. In their agitation they lamented much and saying "O what has happened?" they cried aloud.

19. With pallid face and limbs, the extremely agitated daughter of the king of mountains returned to her palace taking the maids along with her.

20. Due to the misery on account of the death of her husband, Rati fell down unconscious, as if dead.

21. When she regained consciousness after a while, Rati in her great agitation lamented loudly and said:—

*Rati said:—*

22. "What shall I do ? Where can I go ? What is it