

“O lord, O lord”, saying thus she lamented much in front of Śiva.

11. On hearing the lamentation of Rati, Sarasvatī and other celestial ladies wept bitterly and spoke in piteous tones.

*The celestial ladies said:—*

12. Obeisance to you, O lord, you are known as favourably disposed to your devotees. You are friend of the distressed, storehouse of mercy. Resuscitate the cupid. Make Rati jubilant.

*Brahmā said:—*

13. On hearing their words, lord Śiva was delighted. The lord, the ocean of mercy, glanced compassionately.

14. Thanks to the nectarine glance of the Trident-bearing lord, Kāma came out of the ashes, a comely wonder-inspiring body with splendid dress and features.

15. On seeing her husband in the same form as before, wielding the bow and the arrows and smiling, Rati bowed to lord Śiva.

16. She became contented. With her husband resuscitated and with palms joined in reverence she eulogised the lord, the bestower of her husband, frequently.

17. On hearing the eulogy of Kāma and his wife, Śiva was delighted and he spoke with his heart melting with pity.

*Śiva said:—*

18. O Kāma, I am delighted by your eulogy in the company of your wife. O self-born, tell me the boon you desire. I shall grant it.

*Brahmā said:—*

19. On hearing these words of Śiva, Kāma was highly delighted. Humbly and in faltering accents he spoke with palms joined in reverence.

*Kāma said:—*

20. O lord of gods, O ocean of mercy, if you, the