

Brahmā said :—

7. O great brahmin, Nārada, listen with devotion to the auspicious story of Śiva's divine sports. You are a blessed devotee of Śiva.

8. O dear one, since I vanished from that place highly distressed by the poisonous words of Śiva, I had been thinking about that alone, since I had been in delusion still.

9. After thinking about it for a long time I began to nurse malicious grudge against Śiva, here again being deluded by Śiva's Māyā. I shall explain it to you. Listen.

10. Then I went to the place where Dakṣa and others were present. On seeing Kāma in the company of Rati I was a little elated.

11. O Nārada, addressing Dakṣa and the other sons²⁴² I spoke these words, deluded by Śiva's illusion.

12. "O Dakṣa, O Marīci and others, my sons, listen to my words. After hearing you shall all find out a remedy for dispelling my distress.

13. Taking into consideration the only fact of harbouring a desire for woman Śiva despised me and you. It is because He is a great Yogin that He reproached us much.

14. Hence I am greatly distressed and I do not get mental peace at all. Such an effort must definitely be made as would make Him take a wife unto Himself.

15. I shall become happy and be free from misery when He takes a wife unto Himself. But on reflection I feel that it is impossible to realise the accomplishment of this desire.

16. Taking into consideration the only fact that I harboured a desire for woman, Śiva rebuked me in the presence of sages. How will He then take a wife unto Himself ?

17. Who can be that woman in the three worlds w

²⁴². The reference is to the ten mind-born sons of the creator known by their names मरीचि, अत्रि, अङ्गिरस्, पुलस्त्य, पुलह, क्रतु, प्रचेतस्, वसिष्ठ, भृगु and नारद and also to ten physical sons : दक्ष, धर्म, काम, क्रोध, लोभ, मोह, मद, प्रमोद, मृत्यु and भरत । In place of the last-named, some substitute Sandhyā, a daughter variously known Vāc, Sarasvatī, Śatarūpā, Sāvitrī, Gāyatrī, Brahmāṇī etc.