

with all characteristics : She is highly fortunate and blessed like Lakṣmī. She is an abode of all qualities.

18. Her future husband will certainly be a splendid God, lord of all, unvanquished, heroic, on a par with Śiva, and Vying with Kāmadeva”.

19. Having said this, the casual visitor Nārada took leave of the king. Deluded by Śivā's Māyā he was extremely oppressed by love.

20. The sage began to muse—“How shall I get her ? How shall she woo me amongst the princes in the Svayaṁvara hall.

21. A comely appearance appeals to all women in every respect. Only by seeing a charming personality will she become enamoured.

22. Thinking thus, Nārada who was agitated by love, went to Viṣṇuloka somehow to acquire Viṣṇu's form ¹ to captivate her.

23. He saluted Viṣṇu and said—“I shall tell you secretly my affairs entirely.”

24. When Viṣṇu who did everything according to Śiva's wish agreed and asked him to narrate, the sage said :—

Nārada said :—

25. The king Śīlanidhi is one of your devotees. He is a righteous king. His daughter Śrīmatī is a maiden of very fair complexion and wide eyes.

26. She has the lustre of Jaganmohinī (enchantress of the universe—a manifestation of Viṣṇu) and is the most beautiful woman in all the three worlds. O Viṣṇu, I wish to marry her without delay.

27. The king at the request of the princess has arranged for a Svayaṁvara. Thousands of Princes have come from all the four quarters.

28. If you can favour me with a splendid form I shall be able to gain her certainly. She will not put the wedding garland round my neck without your splendid form.

29. O lord ! give me your form. I am your servant and favourite. Give me your beautiful form so that the princess Śrīmatī may choose me.