

came blind. So he was caught and killed by the watchmen on duty.

21. O sage, by the favour of Śiva or by the power of accumulated merit, the son of Yajñadatta could not partake of the offerings of eatables made to Lord Śiva.

22. The terrible soldiers of Yama who desired to take him to Saṁyamani²²⁴ (the abode of Yama), approached him with nooses and clubs in their hands and bound him.

23. In the meantime the attendants of Śiva with tridents in their hands and tinkling anklets on their arms reached the spot in an aerial chariot in order to take him to Śivaloka.

Śivagaṇas said:—

24. “O attendants of Yama, leave this righteous brahmin alone. He cannot be punished since his sins have been burnt off.”

25-27. On hearing these words of Śiva’s attendants, the attendants of Yama became terrified and addressed the attendants of Śiva:

Yamagaṇas said:—

“O Gaṇas, this is a wicked brahmin who has broken the traditions and conventions of his family. He has disobeyed his father’s directions and has forsaken truthfulness or purity. He does not offer his Sandhyā prayers. He does not take his ceremonial baths regularly.

28. Leave aside his other activities. He has now transgressed and outraged the offerings of eatables made to Śiva. You can see this personally. In fact he is not worthy of even being touched by people like you.

29. Those who consume or outrage the offerings of eatables made to Śiva and those who offer these to others, the mere touch of these persons, it is said, is sinful.

30. Even poison is not so dangerous when drunk. Never shall a person make use of Śiva’s property even if he were to die.

224. Saṁyamini or Saṁyamani, the city of Yama is fabled to be situated on Mount Meru.