

ated ? Though I am the lord and master, I have been perturbed by Kāma.

44. If I, the master, were to yearn for the touch of a woman's limbs what will not be done by other incompetent and insignificant creatures''.

45. Thus resuming detachment, lord Śiva forbade her sitting on the couch. How can there be a downfall for the great lord Śiva ?

## CHAPTER NINETEEN

(Kāma's destruction by Śiva)

*Nārada said:—*

1. O Brahma, the most fortunate one, what happened then ? Be pleased to tell me that story that destroys our sins altogether.

*Brahmā said:—*

2. O dear one, hear the story of what happened thereafter. Out of love for me I shall recount Śiva's sports that bring about joy.

3. On seeing the dissipation of His courage, lord Śiva, the great Yogin, thought within Himself wondering much.

*Śiva said:—*

4. How is it that obstacles have cropped up while I am performing the great penance ? Who can be that wicked person who has made my mind highly perturbed ?

5. With love I have described in bad taste another man's woman. I have contravened rules of virtue and transgressed the bounds of the Vedas.

*Brahmā said:—*

6. After thinking like this, the great Yogin, the goal of the good, surveyed all round, his suspicion having been aroused.

7. He saw Kāma stationed on His left side with his