

7. Thinking "This sage is yearning for my kingdom" Indra wanted to spoil it.

8. Indra, the leader of Devas, remembered Kāmadeva (Cupid) who arrived there immediately, accompanied by his Queen (Rati) and spring (his friend).

9. The king of Devas, endowed with crooked intelligence to achieve his interests, saw that Kāma had arrived and addressed him thus.

*Indra said:—*

10. O friend, of great prowess, always doing what is beneficent to me, please hear lovingly what I am going to say. Render me your help.

11. Strongly supported by you I have destroyed the pride of many ascetics O friend, the stability of my kingdom is always due to your blessing.

12. Nārada, the sage, is performing a penance in the Himālaya mountain directing his mind towards the Lord of the universe with great mental control and firm resolve.

13. I now fear lest he should beg of Brahmā my kingdom. You must go there now itself and hinder his penance.

14. Being thus commanded by Indra, Kāmadeva, accompanied by his wife (Rati) and Madhu, his friend, went haughtily to that place. He then prepared his own means of attack.

15. He employed all his arts there immediately. Spring too haughtily spread his prowess of diverse nature.

16. O great sages, the mind of the sage (Nārada) did not waver. Only the arrogance of these fellows suffered a setback and that too by the favour of Maheśa.

17. Please listen to the reason thereof, O Śaunaka and other sages ! By the controlling power of the lord, Kāma could not exercise any influence.

18. It was in this very place that Śiva, the indefatigable enemy of Kāma, had formerly performed a great penance. It was here that Kāma was reduced to ashes—Kāma who used to spoil the penances of sages.

19. Rati wanted the resuscitation of Kāma and requested the Devas. They appealed to lord Śiva, the benefactor of the whole world who said thus :