

53-55. Unaffected by passion and highly intelligent by nature how can you be swayed by lust?"

On hearing words like these, the great sage laughed within himself but spoke to Viṣṇu humbly.

*Nārada said :—*

“O lord, what can Kāma do to me if you remain favourable to me ?”

Saying so, the sage who had paid a casual visit bowed to Viṣṇu and left.

### CHAPTER THREE

*(Nārada attends the Svayaṃvara of a virgin  
and is discomfited)*

*The sages said :—*

1-2. Sūta, O blessed Sūta, the disciple of Vyāsa, our obeisance to thee. It is due to thy grace that this wonderful story has been narrated to us, O dear one. Now tell us in detail what Viṣṇu did after Nārada had left the place? And where did Nārada go?

Vyāsa said:—

3. On hearing these words of the sages, Sūta<sup>177</sup> the wise and excellent scholar of Purāṇas remembered Śiva, the cause of different kinds of creation and replied.

*Sūta said :—*

4. When Nārada went away casually Viṣṇu, skilful in wielding his Māyā, spread his Māyā, as Śiva had willed.

5. On the path taken by the sage He created a big wonderful city. It was a hundred Yojanas in extent and surprisingly beautiful.

6. It was far more beautiful than heaven. Many

177. See note 2 on P. 1.