

will ever haunt his mind, make him neglect the path of Yoga and delude him ?

18. Even Kāma will not be competent to delude Him. He is a Yogin of great perfection and He does not brook even the name of women.

19. Unless the primordial Being Śiva indulges in sexual sport, the creation would continue to be mediocre, its course being unchecked as the Lord himself has stated.²⁴³

20. On the earth there may be great Asuras bound by illusion. Some are bound by the illusion of Viṣṇu and others by the illusion of Śiva.

21. In regard to Śiva who has turned away from the world and who is extremely detached, nothing else except the endeavour of Kāma will be effective. There is no doubt about it.

22. After saying this and casting meaningful glances at Dakṣa and other sons, I addressed Kāma and Rati with great pleasure.

23. O Kāma, foremost among my sons, you are the bestower of happiness in every respect. Listen to my words with great attention in the company of your wife, O son of great filial affection.

24. O Kāma, you shine well with this life-companion of yours. She too shines well with you as her husband.

25-26. Just as Viṣṇu with Lakṣmī and Lakṣmī with Viṣṇu, just as the night with the moon and the moon with the night, so you two mutually illuminate each other and tend your matrimonial life. Hence you will be the banner of the universe, nay the banner of the whole cosmos.

27. O dear one, you shall enchant Śiva for the benefit of the universe so that Śiva may be included to take a wife unto Himself.

28-29. In a secluded or in a crowded place, on mountains or in lakes, wherever Śiva goes, you shall follow Him along with your mistress and charm him who has controlled Himself and who is averse to women. Excepting you there is no one to delude Him.

²⁴³. The text of this verse is corrupt in all printed editions. The present translation is conjectural.